Sunday, January 30, 2005 ★★ Vol. 33 / No. 43

DEVOTEES OF SANTO NIÑO DE CEBU display their favorite images of the Child Jesus while they dance in procession in the streets of Tondo on Subic day during one of the country's best-loved feasts. The photo is a composite of the various ways the infant Jesus in their various incarnations is dressed up or down and accessorized by their doting guardians.

Palace: Forget Edsa II

'To heal hurts,' GMA wants no celebration today

By Michael Lim Ubac

READ *MALACAÑANG'S* lips: Everyone should forget Edsa II.

Seven years ago today, then Vice President Macapagal-Arroyo was sworn in as President, taking the reins of power from her disgraced predecessor. It was a heady moment, such an artistic life Arroyo describing her assumption of the presidency as a "miraculous event."

But there will be no dancing in the streets or partying in the Palace to mark the President's rise to power on Jan. 20, 2001.

In keeping with Ms Arroyo's wish to "heal the wounds of Edsa," Malacañang has not ordered any commemorative activity marking the seventh anniversary of Edsa II.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita in effect said no one is to celebrate the fateful day should be turned into the dustbin of history.

"Remember, one legacy agenda (of the President) is healing the wounds of Edsa," Ermita told the business. "And we thought not celebrating (it) will be

MALACAÑANG

Loren's loss in election protest is GMA's gain

By Michael Lim Ubac and Dona Z. Pazzibugan

MALACAÑANG DECLARED YESTERDAY that questions on the legitimacy of President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration had been put to rest with the decision of the Presidential Electoral Tribunal (PET) to dismiss the electoral protests lodged by Sen. Loren Legarda against Vice President Noli de Castro.

The decision, issued on Friday by the Supreme Court sitting as the PET, signaled "the ultimate end," election lawyer Antonio Macalintal said at a press conference in Pasay City.

Macalintal, who served as counsel for both the President and Vice President following the 2004 elections, contended that Legarda could still seek a reconsideration within 15 days. But "we repeat that we are ready to argue (against) any motion for reconsideration to be filed by (her)," he said.

But on the phone from Marawi, Pampanga, Legarda maintained that Ms Arroyo and De Castro cheated in the 2004 polls.

She balked at Macalintal's statement that the dismissal of her protest case against De Castro had also vindicated Ms Arroyo, saying:

"That's part of their lies. It's no

LAWYER GLOSS A2

Blogger can hardly wait; starts countdown

By Jocelyn Aning

ARE WE THERE YET?

For Filipinos counting the days, hours, minutes, down to the last second until President Macapagal-Arroyo finishes her term, thinking's for you.

"Pag Tapat Naman (It's taking too long)," was launched by Ruby dizonpoy

BLOGGER A2

Why Bobby Fischer loved RP, Pinoys

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—A GENERATION STILL remembers American chess genius Bobby Fischer as a outlaw. It is hard to picture this brainiest legend playing tennis matches at a country club or walking hand in hand with a Filipino woman.

But this generation will have no reluctance this image of the 64-year-old Fischer slurped before his death on Thursday in Reykjavik, Iceland.

Fischer played tennis at the Baguio Country Club and had a romance with a 20-year-old woman from Kawayan (Benguet) Village in Baguio City

WORSHIPER A10

MEMORIES UPON A CHESSBOARD Mitch Eugene Torre, 1992 in Pagadian where Bobby Fischer played Boris Spassky in a rematch defying international sanctions.

Fil-Am, Asian vote crucial in Nevada

By Mirtha U. Ryndo
Contributor

LOS ANGELES—FILIPINO-AMERICans and other Asian Americans may just deliver the swing vote in the Saturday caucus in Nevada state, the third stop for the Democrats on the road to what has become an unpredictable and fiercely fought battle for the party nomination.

"Asian American Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) are a key electorate in this critical race," said Gloria Caoile, executive director of the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (Apala) and a board member of the Asian American Pacific Islander Vote (APIAVote).

Aspirants for the presidency are vying in the hustle of a series of statewide caucuses in which voters choose their Democratic and Republican candidates hurtling to become their par-

FILIPINO A12

WHAT'S INSIDE

JOB
Build your future with us

Militant farmers to defy Mayor Lim, will rally at the site of Mendiola Massacre on Tuesday, Jan. 22
NEWS/A2

The New William Hung. Worldwide superstar is Fil-Am with silver cape.
ENTERTAINMENT/F1

Lessons from the richest men who ever lived from King Solomon ($1 trillion) to Bill Gates ($56B) and Warren Buffet ($52 B).
SUNDAY BIZ/B3

Sto. Niño fest traces image's journey from Mexico to Manila

By Tina G. Santos
and Beverly T. Hacienda

A FLUVIAL PROCESSION RECENACTing the journey of the image of the Sto. Niño from Mexico to Manila highlighted Tondo residents' celebration of the Feast of the Child Jesus yesterday.

Spearheaded by former Manila Mayor Mel Lopez as hermano mayor, Sto. Niño parish priest Fr. Edwin Santos and city officials led by Mayor Alfredo Lim, the Bantal procession was attended by devotees, vendors and operators who came in droves hoping that their prayers, petitions and wishes would be granted.

For devotee Mercy Pontemar, 56, of Muntinlupa, Tondo, her yearly visit of joining the celebrations is to thanksgiving for a healthy and safe life.

"I do not wish for grave wealth or any material things. It's enough that

STO. NIÑO A10

JOY RIDE Puerto Princesa Mayor Edward Hagedorn and Miss Earth Philippines 2007 Jeanne A. Marc Lausch on electrically motorized tricycle on Saturday. Powered by batteries under the passenger seat, the "Trikaboyan" is a tricycle without air and noise pollution. It's also economical costing only P48 to operate per day. (Story on Page B1.)

Turn to page [illegible] for [illegible] story

WEATHER FORECAST

[illegible]

Second
FRONTPAGE

E-mail: [illegible] Website: [illegible]

Farmers vow to press on to Mendiola

By Jerome Aning

PROTESTING FARMERS FROM THE SOUTHERN TAGALOG REGION SAID THEY would continue with their march to mark the anniversary of the "Mendiola Massacre" on Jan. 22 despite Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim's warning he would not allow rallies on the historic bridge leading to Malacañang.

Around 500 farmers from Batangas and Cavite yesterday reached the Redemptorist Church in Baclaran, Parañaque City, where they were joined by willingness and support from Kilos Laguna, Quezon and Bicol, as well as by Gen Ltn Hen. (ret) Jovito Palparan Jr. of the militant Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP), tasked to organizing the Mendiola march.

The farmers-protesters will wait for other farmers' groups then march up Edsa to the Department of Agrarian Reform in Quezon City before proceeding to Don Chino Roces (formerly Mendiola) Bridge in Manila on Monday. They demand that Arroyo act on the [illegible] of a genuine agrarian reform program.

Jan. 22 marks the day in 1987 when 13 protesters were killed as government troops fired on some 10,000 farmers who had converged on the Mendiola bridge to demand genuine agrarian reform from the administration of then President Corazon Aquino. The bridge leading to Malacañang was renamed Don Chino Roces Bridge after the late publisher whose newspapers (The Manila Times) was closed when martial law was declared in 1972, and who personally rented many subsequent demonstrations on the bridge.

Show of support

The Southern Tagalog farmers, members of the KMP called Kampuhan ng mga Anakpawis ng Timog Katagalugan (Kmatik-TK), said they also want to show their support for the agrarian reform reform bill filed by militant party-list representatives in Congress.

The bill seeks to replace the current Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP), which they claimed had "lost its teeth."

Orly Marcellana, Kmatik-TK secretary general, called on presidents to push a pending for a land reform program "that will truly answer their problems, unlike the supposed land awards under CARP that are easily reclaimed by landlords."

The farmers from Batangas began their march in Plaridel, Bulacan on Wednesday. They complained that policemen in Cavite tried to block their way several times.

According to Ala, another group of farmers from Bikol province, on the southern side of Metro Manila, was also blocked by policemen in Antipolo City.

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Trade group backs Jpepa ratification

By Jerome Aning

THE BUSINESS LABOR GROUP TRADE Union Congress of the Philippines yesterday said it would support the Senate ratification of the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (Jpepa), provided the government agreed to establish a P2-billion safety net for workers who might be dislocated by the free entry of Japanese goods.

"Based on our own benefit analysis of the likely impact of the accord, we believe that the potential economic gains outweigh the anticipated losses," TUCP spokesperson Alex Aguilar said in a statement.

The TUCP said it believed that stronger economic relations with Japan would cushion the jolt of the recession expected to hit the United States. "We look forward to increased trade with, and investments from, Japan to counteract any decline in the economy of the United States, which looks headed for a recession," Aguilar said.

Largest trading partner

After the EU, Japan is the Philippines' largest trading partner and No. 2 source of foreign direct investments.

Labor groups, however, continued to oppose the trade pact. Yesterday, another workers group, the Alliance of Progressive Labor, said the ratification of the Jpepa was tantamount to "economic treason."

"Ratifying Jpepa will consign the country to the economic dictates of Japan, just a manipulator on our country's ability to supply the very same policies used by rich countries to propel their economies to the current level of development they now enjoy," said APL secretary general Josua Mata.

Another group, the Sulong-K alliance Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamayan ng Pilipinas, challenged President Macapagal-Arroyo to a debate on the merits of the treaty at the Don Chino Roces (formerly Mendiola) Bridge where anti-Jpepa activists are planning to hold a protest.

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Pasay court blocks Tokyo property contract

By Julie M. Aurelio

A PASAY CITY COURT (RTC) Thursday stopped the government from transferring a controversial contract for a Tokyo property to an outfit that did not take to the bidding process.

The controversial contract involved the development of a 2,500-sqm property in the Nampeidai district in Tokyo, which was part of Japan's reparations for damages inflicted on the Philippines during World War II. A four-story building, which was located when the Philippine Embassy transferred to the Nanyang district, currently sits on the property.

The court said the government cannot the winning bidder, Nagoyanen Internet Connections, "irreparable injury" when the bids and awards committee (BAC) rejected it and signed a contract with another firm left by the commissioner's former nominee.

Named respondents in the injunction were Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, BAC chairman for the Restoration Property Guadalcazar Mendoza, Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo and Ambassador to Japan Domingo Siazon.

Also named was Masakiti Tsuchiya, who signed the contract even though he had been disenfranchised by Nagoyanen from corporating it.

30-day TRO

On Jan. 2, Judge Ma. Rosario Reguyo of Pasay Regional Trial Court Branch 108 issued a 20-day temporary restraining order against the government and Tsuchiya.

Court records showed Nagoyanen won the rights to develop the Kanapeidai property in 2000, and a notice of award was issued for the corporation to construct a building worth 1.7 billion yen.

Loss of trust, confidence

Nagoyanen initially issued a special power of attorney (SPA) to Tsuchiya enabling him to negotiate a service and development agreement with the government.

But in March 2000, the corporation revoked Tsuchiya's power of attorney "for loss of trust and confidence," and appointed William Ong, a Filipino, as its new representative.

Nagoyanen eventually revoked Ong's SPA as well and Masahiro Nagayama personally represented his group in dealings with the Philippine government.

However, in June 2000, the two allowed Tsuchiya to sign the contract despite knowing that Tsuchiya's SPA from the Nagoyana consortium had been revoked.

"The execution and signing by Tsuchiya of the service and development agreement without notice to Nagoyanen Corporation or to its lead partner, Masahiro Nagayama, is a clear and gross violation of Nagoyanen's rights as the winning bidder," Nagoyanen said.

In a letter to BAC chair Mercedes A. Suguitan, the petitioner, conceded that under Japanese law, Tsuchiya should be recognized as the rightful holder of the Nampeidai property contract.

Protected by Constitution

"Unless agreed upon in a contract binding under Japanese law, Tsuchiya would not have any legal obligation to convey the rights back to Nagoyanen in any of its named partners," the letter said.

But Regan pointed out that while the property and project were in Japan, and its financing was a Japanese corporation, "it is nonetheless protected by the mantle of the Constitution considering that what is involved is the violation of Nagoyanen's rights as the declared winning bidder of the infrastructure project."

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NO NOISE, NO EXHAUST

Finally, a tricycle we could all love

By Jeannette I. Andrade

NOISE AND SMOKE-free tricycle may sound like an oxymoron for Puerto Princesa Mayor Edward Hagedorn but he promised in the public letter such a vehicle which he said would change the urban landscape of not only the city but the country.

The electric-powered "Trikeboy" does not emit any noise or reduce, motorists, providing a breather from the incessant whine of gasoline-powered motorcycle engines and the poisonous gases that come out of their exhaust pipe, enveloping the air in an unbreathable haze.

Silent, no smoke

At yesterday's flagdraw to hold forum at Sulo Hotel in Quezon City, Hagedorn test drove a prototype of the Trikeboy in Tricycle Operators and Drivers Association (Toda) territory.

Hagedorn said the Trikeboy can run as fast as 60 kph, is environment friendly and economical, costing just P40 a day to operate. In contrast, he said, a gasoline-powered tricycle can cost P200 a day to run because of the high cost of fuel.

Alternative

"It's about time we looked for an alternative," he said in the press conference before the demonstration.

For its small size, the tricycle can fit the passengers and goods it can carry. He said problems are to be expected initially.

This according to Sally Concepcion, the man who conceptualized the Trikeboy.

"There are now some 2.8 million tricycles in the country. Imagine other than the smoke they emit close to the environment," Concepcion told the lawmakers.

With the Tabangao Concepcion guarantees "no recycle expenses, no down time during repairs, no fuel expenses, no monthly oil change or exhaust and damage the environment."

He pointed out that in the automotive industry presently everyone was going electric.

"At least here in the Philippines, we are addressing that problem from the genesis of the transportation system. Aside from the tricycle, the basic public conveyance and transport system," he said.

Biggest pollutant

It was Concepcion who spearheaded the project to find an alternative to the smoke-belching and noisy tricycles in Puerto Princesa. Day in 1994, an idea to which Hagedorn caught on.

"Too much focus has been concentrated on electric cars and other gasoline solutions, forgetting the biggest pollutant of the air and noise, the tricycle. So we focused our efforts on the tricycle, on the elimination of the very damaging effect of the tricycle to the environment generated by its operation. The led us to focus and start on the tricycle electric motor conversion project," Concepcion said.

Dependability

Concepcion and his team of engineers did research and funded the production of three Trikeboys, prototypes which were tested for ensure durability, reliability and dependability.

"I am hoping the other mayors will catch on to the idea and do what Mayor Hagedorn is doing to transform to the clean air effort," he said.

There are still obstacles to the effort, however.

Hagedorn in lamented that converting a tricycle engine to electric might cross regulation at P60,000, the approximate cost of a new motorcycle, but he stressed

Priceless

"Preserving the environment is priceless and it would be fairly easy for the driver to obtain it which is return of investment in less than a year."

Hagedorn said another problem was how to extend the life of the 36-watt rechargeable battery installed under the tricycle passenger seat. Currently, plugging the wire-cable into a 220-volt electric outlet overnight allows it to run for 12 hours.

"The battery does not really empty out but retains 40 to 50 percent of its power by that time," Hagedorn said.

And Concepcion pointed out the electric tricycle would be no match for flooded streets, something that could hinder its introduction in Metro Manila.

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Unfortunately the concept is not given much emphasis in the medical landscape for we lead to rely on our daily medication which helps to alleviate the symptoms or the "symptomatic form of treatment" which may at the end mask the ongoing progress of the disease process hence despite the daily medications taken religiously complications still arises.

For the past few years it has been the mission of BioVitale Holistic Center to emphasize and coordinate the people on natural healing philosophy which has helped a lot of patients improve their health condition. Patients attest on this (visit our website biovitalesph.com) or it transcend their limits of chronic medications and felt the feeling of general well-being.

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Far Infra Red Sauna, balancing the heat energy within the body, opens also the microcirculation and reduces healthy perspiration to expel toxins.

Negative Ion Generator, which helps to produce more negative ions for the body which is more healthier as it attracts more oxygen required by the body.

And the **BioZapper**, which helps to balance the normal flow of electric current in the body and kills certain microbials within the circulatory and organ system using the magnetic frequency resonances principle.

The process takes about 7 hours per sitting for 3 days to complete the program wherein the patient will feel so rejuvenated, energized and helps to lower blood sugar, cholesterol, uric acid, hypertension and diminish signs of peripheral arterial concerns like cramps, numbness and other sensory or even motor weaknesses.

It is primarily intended for those patients on chronic medications as it may help to lessen their dependency on chronic use of such medication or even just for simple reason to maintain that healthy feeling and look.

The 3 day cleansing program is available at all branches of BioVitale Holistic Center in Cubao (4487625/4487626), Alabang, Greenhills and San Fernando, Pampanga (045 9639045). The package is available at reduced price and initial evaluation will be given by Dr. Benny Villeta one of the pioneers in natural health movement in the country. For more information or reservation you may visit the website bioVitalesph.com or call 4487625. With Discount available only until Feb. 8, 2003.

GMA mourns Jesuit

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO yesterday mourned the death of Fr. Jose H. Blanco, S.J., dubbed the Father of Filipino Liturgical Music.

"I express the grief of our nation on the passing away of Fr. Blanco, a towering figure whose exceptional contribution to the growth of liturgical music has bequeathed a spiritual creativeness to our society," read her message of condolence released yesterday.

"We acknowledge with esteem, appreciation and affection his legacy which continues to touch Filipinos together in prayer and celebration of music."

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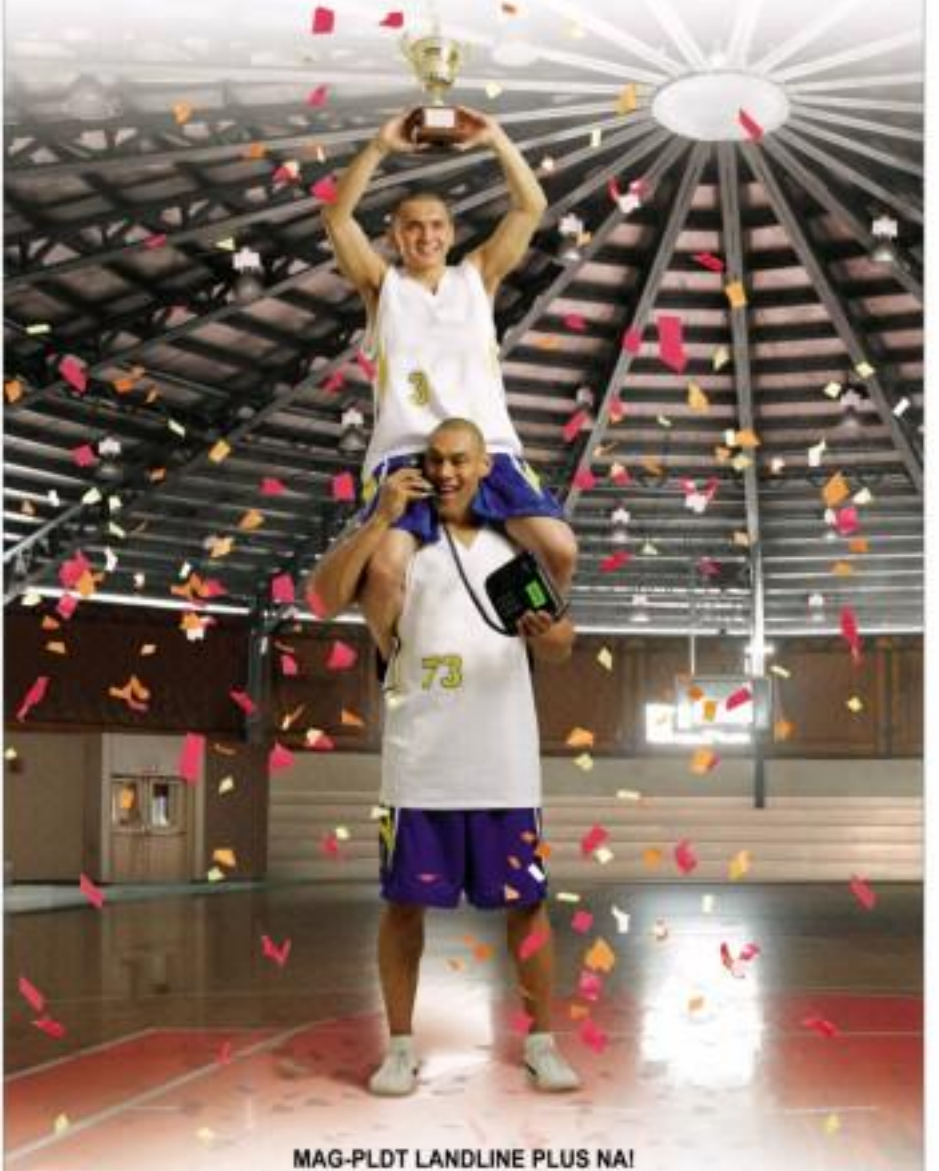

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The inauguration of the Sta. Rosa Hospital and Medical Center represents an outstanding achievement in the medical field, for the company, the people of Sta. Rosa and the country as a whole, as it will be providing comprehensive healthcare for all the people, nationals and expatriates alike, with the best diagnostic and therapeutic services, through the use of the latest medical techniques, equipment and applications.

We continue to challenge ourselves to provide you with only the best in medical services and take this as our commitment to our patients and to the people of Sta. Rosa.

AMADO C. ENRIQUEZ, M.D.
President / CEO

Today a dream has become a reality. The architects, the planners are finished with the construction. They are proud of their works we owe a great deal to them. This hospital now completed and soon will be full of those who need healing. Today it gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to the long awaited, long hoped for opening of this hospital. I firmly believe that Sta. Rosa Hospital and Medical Center will always be a symbol of hope in our community.

CAESAR D. TONGO, M.D., MBA
Chairman of the Board

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TONGO, ROWENA VENERACION, M.D.

The construction of
Sta Rosa Hospital and Medical Center
was made possible through the unselfish dedication and contribution of all the officers and founders by sharing their time and expertise from the date it was incorporated up to the present.

The construction of the edifice started in March 2005 and was completed in December 2007.

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Erap and Angelo Reyes: Forgive and forget

By TJ Burgonio

WHILE PUBLIC ENTHUSIASM IS mounting Edsa II support to diminish each year, Angelo Reyes, a former trusted Estrada chief of staff, still has reason to remember it because he was his Armed Forces commander in Chief have more-or-less peace.

Then Commander in Chief was Joseph Estrada, who was toppled from the presidency in January 2001 after the Reyes-led military boss "disobeyed" and backed the huge crowd in the Edsa Shrine calling for his ouster.

What all that happened, former President Estrada said recently have metamorphosed a very healthy, high respect for each other," Reyes, 62, said now energy secretary, said in an interview at a golf club's function a month Friday night.

He said that for the past seven years since the second "people power" revolt, neither of them had spoken ill of the other.

"I respect him for that. I think in our case we both understood the club's call situation we were in [in 2001]," Reyes said.

On the phone, Estrada confirmed to the Inquirer that all was well between him and Reyes.

"Yes, that's true, to I've said, to this a powerful life, I've decided. Angelo the good things that you did to others and forget the wrong things that others did to you."

Reyes said the major service commanders of the AFP withdrew support from Estrada on Jan. 19, 2001, precipitating the latter's downfall. (See timeline box on this page.)

Reyes witnessed the fateful standoff the Estrada and other members of the First Family, who took a barge from Malacañang to the other side of the Pasig River before they were driven home to Greenhills, San Juan.

Keeping in touch

Relievers to leave, Reyes had kept in touch since then. On at least five occasions, he visited the former executive in the reconstituted town of Tanay in Rizal where Estrada was under house arrest while on trial for plunder before the Sandiganbayan.

"We had some unbelievably happy and almost carefree moments," Reyes recalled, adding:

"He received excellent and delicious dinners, and we made light banter, and of course, as all formally dinners go, there were singing sessions.

"We had singing sessions up to 2 a.m., accompanied by a pianist."

Former Estrada was convicted of plunder last September, and pardoned a month later by President Macapagal-Arroyo, the one now sent into exile either at the birthday party of a "recognized friend."

"He asked, 'are you not happy in one respect?'" Reyes said.

This was in stark contrast to the plain friends who found Reyes in Malacañang on Jan. 20, 2001, the day his Vice President was sworn in as President at the Edsa Shrine.

Disappointed

The two were allied briefly before friends and he hardly handed to the family home on Polk Street, according to Reyes.

"If he was mad, he did not show it. I think he was more disappointed than mad," Reyes wrote in an article titled "The 11th Hour," which was published as a four-part series in the Inquirer in March 2001.

Looking back, Reyes said his decision to withdraw support from Estrada, in the crowd of protesters in Edsa I was the one day, had been "made difficult" by his friendship with the man.

Just a month before, Estrada had reminded Reyes' term as AFP chief of staff and even owed so godfather at the wedding of his son, Jen Reyes.

"I was torn between what I thought I should personally be inclined to do, and what I thought the situation demanded of me," Reyes said.

National interest

In the end, national interest prevailed over personal considerations.

Said Reyes: "In our assessment, the country was going to be divided, the military was going to be divided, there was going to be chaos. And I did not particularly relish the idea of continuing to serve in AFP chief of staff, and seeing all of this happen because I believed in what I was supposed to do."

"In other words, you harm any group support, during senator we just [where] this country's interests is at stake, that's collateral damage."

In his article on Edsa II, Reyes wrote that as the crowd at the Edsa Shrine began to swell, the military received intelligence reports that communist rebels were "coming in" from the north, and extreme rightist elements were "plotting to set up a coalition junta."

And then there was the possible imposition of emergency rule, which could polarize the military, he said.

After a "prolonged discussion" with his staff on the increasingly volatile situation, Reyes decided on the morning of Jan. 19, 2001, to withdraw support from Estrada.

He said the major service commanders unanimously their withdrawal of support from Estrada after Edsa Shrine, but not before informing the Estrada himself about it.

No regrets

"I don't regret having made that decision, as a matter of fact, I think there's a definite measure of my life... It was a decision that was the right to me, and I had to make [it]," Reyes said.

"I was the chief of staff. If I did not really believe in what I was doing, why should I risk my position? Why should I jump into a void, plunge into the unknown when I'm comfortable?" he said.

According to Reyes, Edsa II is still worth celebrating because it was a "defining moment" for Filipinos.

Love of country in sports

"Filipinos can rise, but collapsed and regress at collective rulers," he said. "But at the same time, all of those regressions of corruption ... coincide with the spirit that brought the people there was love of country."

TIMELINE

'Edsa Dos'

THURSDAY, JAN. 20, 2001

Around 10 p.m.—the Senate impeachment court votes 11-10 against the opening of the "second envelope" containing records of then President Joseph Estrada's "Jose Velarde" account in Equitable PCIBank.

In protest, Presidential spokesman Ike Seneres announces the resignation of his boss, Estrada.

Another statement is read on TV in San Juan, Senator Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo declares she is the "rightful President."

Within the hour, people begin massing on the streets, their numbers increasing as their Manila archbishop, Jaime Cardinal Sin and former President Fidel Ramos appear on the balcony to condemn the Estrada rule.

Shortly before midnight, Sin, Ramos and then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, accompanied by Senators and Congressmen, join Archbishop Oscar Cruz in the Edsa Shrine.

Metro Manila's main thoroughfare is filled with people, and Malacañang Palace is surrounded by soldiers and police.

Meanwhile, Estrada's allies in the Senate, including Ralph Recto, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Orlando Mercado, take to the streets.

Truckers walk out as phone lines fail. Estrada's son Jinggoy Estrada is arrested at the airport.

Then Armed Forces Chief of Staff Angelo Reyes announces that the military is withdrawing support from Estrada.

Reyes, Philippine National Police Director General Panfilo Lacson, the first seven security officials of Estrada's rank, calls a press conference to announce their withdrawal of support to the President.

At around the same time, Metro Manila police chief Director Edgardo Aglipay goes to Edsa with his five district directors.

The crowd at Edsa continues to swell from working people and students at noon of the defiance.

By 10 p.m., at least 11 Cabinet officials have resigned their posts, leaving Estrada "politically crippled."

Among those who quit: Secretary to Address Gonzales of education; Secretary Cruz Angeles of tourism; Interior Secretary Alfredo Lim of the interior; Finance Minister of economic planning, Jose Pavia of finance; Horacio Morales of agrarian reform; Brigadier Rigdon of public works; and Dolor Sagaysay of social welfare; Rohan Vivekananda, presidential assistant for flagship projects; and National Security Adviser Alexander Aguirre.

Estrada asks Congress to call for a "snap" presidential election to coincide with the regular elections set in May.

Opposition lawyers Estrada with it is in the seat day to step down.

Past 10 p.m.—Opposition senators were in videos calling to negotiate Estrada's exit.

Estrada's ally Jaime Bichara and impeachment lawyer Estelito Mendoza fly to Hong Kong. Estrada liquidate and their two-day conspiracy at the foot of statue of Don Carlos Bonso Memorial Bridge.

Saturday, Jan. 20

Noon—Mr. Arroyo is sworn in as President at the Edsa Shrine with Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. doing the honors.

2:30 p.m.—Estrada, his wife Loi and the rest of the first family leave Malacañang on the barge.

The governments of Japan, Thailand, Australia, Canada and the United States congratulate Ms Arroyo. *Jaime Ramos, Inquirer Research*

Sources: Inquirer Archives; Edsa 2: A Story to Retold

Palace: Forget Edsa II to 'heal wounds'

By [illegible]

one of the steps toward healing unjust feelings brought about by Edsa II."

Ermita pointed out that the "patriotic characters," rooted President and purchased plunderer Joseph Estrada, had been "given his freedom."

"So the least we talk about it, the better, okay?" the executive secretary said.

He disclosed that the commissioners of Edsa II were never discussed in recent Cabinet meetings, unlike the Edsa I revolt of 1986 that led to the demise Ferdinand Marcos' downfall, the yearly celebration of which is spearheaded by the People Power Commission.

Ermita feared no wisdom in commemorating Mr Arroyo's assumption of the presidency in 2001, considering that "not all allies are still with the President now."

Feeling is mutual

And it appears that the feeling is mutual.

Bestowing the Supreme Court's upholding of the legality of Mr Arroyo's assumption of the presidency, the 70-year-old Estrada described his selection from Malacañang as the day "when democracy in the Philippines died."

"The dignity of democracy must not be redeemed," said Estrada, the first Philippine president to be impeached, and who will much Edsa II as a free man for the first time.

He had spent the previous six anniversaries of Edsa II in detention cells as he stood for plunder.

Since Mr Arroyo gained a fresh six-year mandate in 2004, her administration has stepped commemorating Edsa II.

Instead, Malacañang has set itself as official statement from the President, who will apparently wear this day as just another day.

She is scheduled to visit the sleepy towns of San Francisco and San Pedro in Zambales to inaugurate road and bridge projects.

Yesterday morning, she went to Pampanga City and inaugurated the Southern Tagalog Arterial Road Bridge Project and the city's International Export and Commerce Terminal.

At 2 p.m., she was back at the Palace to personally receive an original copy of the decision of the Presidential Electoral Tribunal (PET) dismissing the electoral protest lodged by Sen. Loren Legarda against Vice President Noli de Castro. (*Story on Page A1.*)

Romulo Macalintal, Mr. Arroyo's election lawyer, assisted her when the PET ruled that the election documents were "genuine and reliable" used for the proclamation of De Castro. It gave substance arising than the election returns and certificates of canvass used for the proclamation of President Arroyo were likewise genuine, authentic and duly executed."

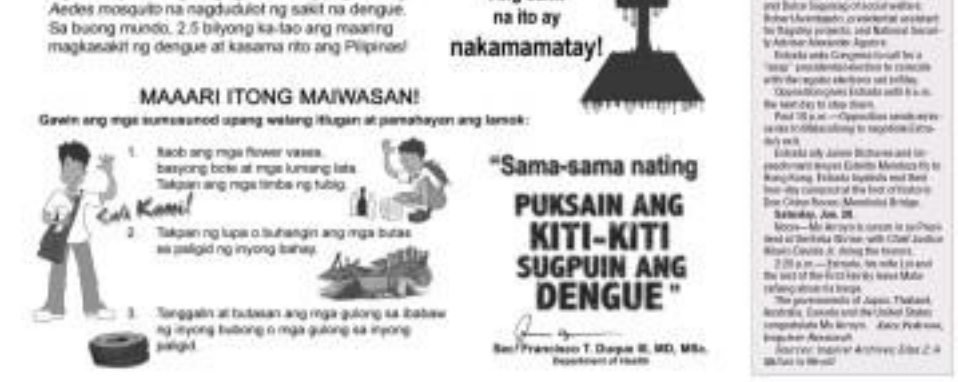
Macalintal also said the retirees of the decision was "timely" because it was made on the eve of Edsa II.

'Silent' activity

Still, Secretary Cesar Sarmiento, chief of the Presidential Management Staff, said the Arroyo administration had opted for a "silent commemoration" of Edsa II this year.

He did not explain how it would do this.

But Bonnevie-Cuneta said that Malacañang had not lined up any activities to mark the day, although he added that the Palace had not forgotten the "lessons" of Edsa II.



'US CARRIERS HAD 9/11'

RP airlines safer, says Noli

By Cynthia D. Rabasa

DE CASTRO

THE PRESIDENT told Jet Centro yesterday amid Philippine-based air carriers were still extremely safer than American airlines because the latter had been subjected to terrorist attacks—referring to 9/11.

Speaking on his radio program, "Ibon ng Isa, Buyan," De Castro expressed his displeasure over the advisory issued by the US Embassy in Manila to its nationals to fly only on six listed companies that meet international safety standards.

"Why subject the citizens? Which is safer? US airline or one in US airlines? After 9/11, it's safer to be in US airlines? After 9/11, terrorists have become the target of terrorists," De Castro said.

"Di mas magkakaibig-aring lagi dapat ang mga tao natin. Sa US talaga ba or sa isang dalan ay kami? Para ako ang opinion ng mamamayan ang mga kababayan natin na sabi kung kaya nyan 100% eh di kaya nyan rin 100%. Ano ba ang ibig sabihin nun? Ibig sabihin ng mga ito ay mas safe ka sa US airline or sa US airline? Ibig sabihin ng mga ito ay mas safe ka sa Asian airline? Ibig sabihin ng mga ito ay mas safe ka sa Asian airline? That is the opinion of many of our countrymen," De Castro said.

The Vice President said he would prefer taking Philippine Airlines or Cebu Pacific than any other airlines.

He said the US Embassy's Advisory to shun Philippine-based carriers was unfair, particularly to Philippine Airlines, the nation's flag-carrier, which has always met safety standards.

Downgrading

De Castro stressed it was the officials of the Air Transportation Office (ATO), an attached agency of the Department of Transportation and Communications, who were responsible for the downgrading of the Philippines' civil aviation safety oversight rating from Category 1 to Category 2 by the US Federal Aviation Administration, and not PAL or the country's airports.

ATO's last oversight function over Philippine air carriers

Heightened

PAL president Jaime Bautista, a guest on the radio program, said PAL had its own safety standards that went better or on par with international standards.

In fact, he said, PAL had just passed the recent IATA audit with a high rating.

"Our airplanes are maintained by Lufthansa Technik based in Hamburg, Germany, which also maintains the fleets of other international airlines.

Bautista said the downgrade affected PAL since it was the only Philippine airline that would be under "heightened" FAA surveillance.

Alfonso Cusi, general manager of Manila International Airport Authority, told De Castro that the Ninoy Aquino International Airport passed the Nov. 29 international audit of compliance with international standards.

"What was downgraded was the civil aviation capability because ATO has oversight function over the airlines," Cusi said.

In an interview by De Castro, Bautista Diaz Mendez blamed the ATO for not immediately calling the attention of the legislature to the PAL recommendation to upgrade the standards of the civil aviation industry.

Review the decision

Farnsworth said the FAA had been prodding ATO for two years for its recommendation on improving civil aviation safety standards, to no avail.

According to Farnsworth, the FAA warned the ATO to be sure it would not be DOTC in order to give it fiscal autonomy to carry out improvements.

Cusi said that should Congress pass a law creating an independent ATO, the FAA would review the decision and subject it to a new audit.

Court heeds 'running priest's' plea for amparo

By Jerome Aning

THE SUPREME COURT HAS issued a writ of amparo in favor of fugitive priest Fr. Rolando Reyes to stop alleged harassment by the government.

In an en banc resolution dated Jan. 15, the high tribunal granted Reyes' petition for a writ, and ordered Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez and Undersecretary Ricardo Blancaflor as Libanan to make a verified return, or to official report in response to the writ, with the Court of Appeals by Jan. 24.

The appellate court was also tasked to hear the petition on June 25 and decide the case within 10 days after it is submitted for decision.

The writ of amparo provides remedies to a person whose rights to life, liberty and security are violated and threatened. The writ applies respondents—whether government officials or agencies, or private individuals—to take action to resolve a grievance and not merely deny the allegation against them.

Civilian supporter

Reyes' petition stemmed from the charge of rebellion brought against him in connection with the botched revolt staged by the Magdalo group of renegade soldiers at the Peninsula Manila hotel in Makati on Nov. 29.

The government accused the priest of being one of the civilian supporters of what it said was an attempted coup against the government.

Reyes was eventually released but when he tried to leave for Hong Kong, where he is assigned, immigration officials stopped him because of a hold-departure order issued by the Department of Justice.

Blanket removal

Gonzalez has explained that Reyes was allowed to travel and would be given permission to do so once the DOJ has finished the case of poultryist Rep. Antonio Ocampo whom he was charged with rebellion.

However, what the priest wanted was "blanket removal" of the hold order which the justice secretary said was not possible yet "there is still issues against him."

Gonzalez said the case against Reyes and other civilians involved in the Peninsula siege was still alive as the DOJ has filed a motion for reconsideration with the Makati court which dismissed the charges.

Librarians slate assembly, awards

THE PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION OF ACADEMIC and Research Librarians (PAARL) will hold its 35th annual general assembly and conference-workshop on Jan. 28 at Jose Rizal University, Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City.

Awards to members and organizations for 2007 will also be handed out at the program from 9 a.m. to noon.

Board chevron for Lauro Dimkpacan Cruz and Magsaysay awards of Mindanao will receive the Outstanding Academic Research Librarian Award; to Ignacio Tal Garcia, Professional Service Award; to Angela Victoria Lifetime Achievement Award; Department of Science and Technology Media Program, Outstanding Library Program; and Ateneo de Manila University Lim Eng Soon Outstanding Library Award.

The Philippine Daily Inquirer and book dealers who have supported PAARL activities will receive plaques of appreciation.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL
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Rev. Fidel

1st Reading: 1 Sm 3:1-10

The people who walk in the dark have seen a great light. (Alight has dawned on those who live in the land of the shadow of death.)

Who has contagious the nation, you have increased their joy. They rejoice before you, as people rejoice at harvest time or as victors in dividing the spoil.

For the yoke of their burden, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For every warrior's boot trampling and every soldier's cloak rolled in blood, will be thrown out for burning, and there is to be for her.

For a child is born to us, a son is given us; on his shoulder is laid upon his shoulder, and his name is proclaimed: "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

To the increase of his powerful rule and peace, there will be no end. He will be his kingdom, to establish and uphold it with justice and righteousness from this time on and forever.

The zealous love of Yahweh will do this.

Ps 40:2, 4, 7-10

Responsorial Psalm: Here I am, Lord, I come to do your will.

I waited, waited for Yahweh and he stooped to me, he heard my cry for help.

He put a new song into my mouth, a song of praise to our God.

Sacrifice and offering you do not want, but you have given me the ear to hear.

Then I said, 'Here I am, I come. In the scroll of the book it is written that I should do your will. I delight in doing it, my God, your law is deep within me.'

2nd Reading: 1 Cor 6:13-15, 17-20

Blessed be God, the Father of Christ Jesus our Lord, who in Christ has blessed us from heaven with every spiritual blessing.

God chose us in Christ before the creation of the world to be holy and without fault before him in love.

In his goodness he destined us to live as his adopted sons and daughters through Christ Jesus, thus fulfilling his divine and gracious will.

The glory and praise that he has lavished on us he has granted us in his Beloved, in whom we have our redemption through his blood.

Know, then, with what your faith and your affection towards all the believers, can always give thanks to God, remembering you in my prayers.

May the God of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of the glorious, grant you a spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him.

May he enlighten your inner vision, that you may appreciate the things to which he calls, and see what is the glorious wealth he gives the saints.

May you know the immeasurable greatness of his power for us believers, measured by the strength and might [of] his power and love! Reader, this is the word of the Lord.

Gospel: Mk 1:40-45

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked him, "Who is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?"

He called a little child to him, placed the child in the midst of the disciples, and said, "I assure you that unless you change and become like little children, you cannot enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven; and whoever welcomes such a child in my name welcomes me.

See that you do not despise any of these little ones; for I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my heavenly Father."

Commentary:

Jesus had always preached that unless we are child-like we cannot enter the Kingdom of God. We cannot, of ourselves, earn passage, considering us as children of the Father. Only those who have simple trust in God's goodness, who always seek Him, just as children do, and who rely on Him completely, can be heard by Him, as a child.

Amidst the troubles plaguing the world, may we follow the "child" in us to seek our Heavenly Father and be assured of His love. Children enjoy, we are told, when women recite the Gospel of the time of the Babies.

FIRST DO NO HARM!

WE, THE PHYSICIANS OF THE PHILIPPINES, SUBSCRIBE TO THE OBJECTIVES OF THE GENERICS ACT OF 1988 (R.A. 6675) AND FULLY SUPPORT INITIATIVES TO LOWER THE COST OF MEDICINES. ABOVE ALL, WE SEEK TO PROMOTE THE SAFETY OF OUR PATIENTS AND PROTECT THEIR TRUST AND CONFIDENCE IN US.

As physicians, we ensure that the medicines we give to our patients are effective and safe. Cheaper Medicines allow them to buy the full course of their treatment. We, however, are aware of the realities of counterfeit and substandard drugs, particularly in many areas in the countries of Asia where, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), more than 30% of the medicines sold can be counterfeit.

While the Generics Act of 1988 aims to rationalize the use of medicines through patient education and provide access to cheaper, effective and safe medicines, it has not been fully implemented because of lack of resources and an inadequate regulatory environment. The problem lies not in the Generics Act, itself, but in the lack of political will to implement it. There is, as a matter of fact, no need to change or amend this Act.

We are deeply concerned, therefore, that a proposed amendment to the existing Generics Act inserted in the House version of the Cheaper Medicines Bill makes otherwise simple medical treatment vulnerable to delays and confusion, and puts patient safety at risk by disallowing physicians from including their recommended brands in their prescriptions which through their long year of experiences have been proven to be effective and safe. Physicians are ethically accountable for the success or failure of their patients' treatment.

Our patients come to us confident that we would prescribe them not only safe and effective medicines, but medicines that are agreeable or palatable to them or their children. There are different responses among patients to medicines with the same generic name; these responses are the subject of the doctor-patient interaction in the clinic. The amendment in the House version, when enforced, would disempower physicians and interfere with their treatment, and intrude into the doctor-patient relationship that has been established over time. With this relationship violated, the physician's role is taken over by the drugstore sales clerk who has neither the knowledge nor the training of the physician, but who now must assume accountability for whatever errors made at the drugstore counter.

In the end, the harm that the amendment can cause cannot be made up for by the gains that cheaper medicines would achieve. We all want better health care for everyone; we all want cheaper medicines for the greatest number of our fellowmen. We can probably think of many ways to achieve our goals, but FIRST, **DO NO HARM!**

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PHILIPPINE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS

Philippine Heart Association
Philippine Diabetes Association
Philippine Society of Nephrology
Philippine Dermatological Society
Philippine Neurological Association
Philippine College of Chest Physicians
Philippine Society of Gastroenterology
Philippine Society of Medical Oncology
Philippine Society of Nuclear Medicine
Philippine Rheumatology Association
Philippine Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism
Philippine Society of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology
Philippine Society for Microbiology and Infectious Disease
Philippine Society of Hematology and Blood Transfusion

PHILIPPINE PEDIATRIC SOCIETY

Philippine Society of Pediatric Oncology
Philippine Society of Pediatric Surgeons
Philippine Society of Pediatric Cardiology
Child Neurology Society of the Philippines
Society of Pediatric Critical Care Medicine
Pediatric Nephrology Society of the Philippines
Philippine Academy of Pediatric Pulmonologist
Pediatric Infectious Disease Society of the Philippines
Philippine Society of Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition
Philippine Society of Pediatric Metabolism and Endocrinology
Philippine Society of Newborn Medicine
Section of Allergy and Immunology
Section of Clinical Genetics
Section of Adolescent Medicine
Section of Developmental Pediatrics
Section of Ambulatory Pediatrics
Section of Hematology

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Philippine Society for Study of Trophoblastic Diseases
Philippine Society of Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynecology
Philippine Society of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility
Philippine Society of Gynecologic Endoscopes

PHILIPPINE COLLEGE OF RADIOLOGY

Ultrasound Society of the Philippines
Philippine Radiation Oncology Society
Philippine Society of Intervention and Vascular Radiology
Computer Tomography Magnetic Resonance Imaging Society of the Philippines

PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF PATHOLOGISTS

PHILIPPINE ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

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Society of Obstetric Anesthesia of the Philippines
Philippine Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesiologists

REGIONS AND COMPONENT SOCIETIES

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Apayao Medical Society
Babbies Medical Society
Cagayan Medical Society
Ifugao Medical Society
Isabela Medical Society
Kalinga Medical Society
Nueva Vizcaya Medical Society
Quirino Medical Society
Santiago City Medical Society

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Abra Medical Society
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Ilocos Sur Medical Society
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Bataan Medical Society
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Nueva Ecija Medical Society
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RIZAL
Antipolo City Medical Society
Eastern Rizal Medical Society
Las Pinas Medical Society
Makabon-Navotas Medical Society
Mandaluyong City Medical Society
Muntinlupa City Medical Society
Parañaque City Medical Society
Pasig City Medical Society
Taguig City Medical Society
Taytay-Angono Medical Society

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Caloocan City Medical Society
Makati Medical Society
Marikina Valley Medical Society
Pasay-Parañaque Medical Society
San Juan Medical Society
Valenzuela Medical Society

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Aurora Medical Society
Batangas Medical Society
Bicol Medical Society
Cavite Medical Society
Laguna Medical Society
Lipa City Medical Society
Mamburao Medical Society
Mindoro Occidental Medical Society
Mindoro Oriental Medical Society
Palawan Medical Society
Quezon Medical Society
Romblon Medical Society
San Pablo Medical Society
Tiaong-Lucena Medical Society
Tanauan Medical Society
Western Batangas Medical Society

BICOL
Albay Medical Society
Camarines Norte Medical Society
Camarines Sur Medical Society
Catanduanes Medical Society
Masbate Medical Society
Sorsogon Medical Society

WESTERN VISAYAS
Aklan Medical Society
Antique Medical Society
Capiz Medical Society
Capiz Medical Society
Guimaras Medical Society
Iloilo Medical Society
Negros Occidental Medical Society

CENTRAL VISAYAS
Bohol Medical Society
Cebu Medical Society
Negros Oriental Medical Society
San Carlos City Medical Society
Siquijor Medical Society

EASTERN VISAYAS
Biliran Medical Society
Eastern Samar Medical Society
Leyte Medical Society
Northern Samar Medical Society
Ormoc Medical Society
Samar Medical Society
Southern Leyte Medical Society

CARAGA
Agusan del Norte Medical Society
Agusan del Sur Medical Society
Surigao del Norte Medical Society
Surigao del Sur 1 Medical Society
Surigao del Sur 2 Medical Society

WESTERN MINDANAO
Basilan Medical Society
Dapitan Medical Society
Dipolog Medical Society
Sulu Medical Society
Zamboanga City Medical Society
Zamboanga del Norte Medical Society
Zamboanga del Sur Medical Society
Zamboanga Sibugay Medical Society
Tawi Tawi Medical Society

NORTHERN MINDANAO
Bukidnon Medical Society
Camiguin Medical Society
Gingoog-Medina Medical Society
Misamis Oriental Medical Society

SOUTHEASTERN MINDANAO
Compostela Valley Medical Society
Cotabato City Medical Society
Davao Medical Society
Davao del Norte Medical Society
Davao del Sur Medical Society
Davao Oriental Medical Society
General Santos City Medical Society
North Cotabato Medical Society
South Cotabato Medical Society
Sultan Kudarat Medical Society

NORTHCENTRAL MINDANAO
Iligan City Medical Society
Lanao del Norte Medical Society
Lanao del Sur Medical Society
Misamis Occidental (Oroquieta) Medical Society
Misamis Occidental (Ozamis) Medical Society

AFFILIATE SOCIETIES

Philippine Society of Critical Care Medicine
Philippine Leprosy Society
Medical Artists Association
Philippine Thyroid Association
Rizal Society of the Philippines
Philippine Society of Anatomists
Philippine Society of Oncologists
Philippine Psychiatric Association
Philippine Society of Burn Injuries
Philippine Society of Hypertension
Philippine Society of Venereologists
Philippine Society of Sleep Medicine
Molecular Oncology of the Philippines
Perinatal Association of the Philippines
Osteoporosis Society of the Philippines
Philippine Society of Insurance Medicine
Philippine Association of Medical Writers
Philippine Association of Military Surgeons
Philippine Association of Neurological Surgeons
Philippine Lipid and Atherosclerosis Society
Philippine Society of Cosmetic Surgery
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Philippine Academy of Medical Specialists
Philippine Academy of Rehabilitation Medicine
Philippine Academy of Cutaneous Surgery
Philippine College of Pharmaceutical Medicine
Philippine College of Gerontology and Geriatrics
Community Pediatrics Society of the Philippines
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Aerospace Medical Association of the Philippines
Maternal and Child Health Association of the Philippines
Philippine Society of Ultrasound and Clinical Medicine
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Get Carmi's 25-Inch Waistline With a Little Help from Marie France

Carmi Martin's enviable hourglass figure has remained consistently sexy in all her years in showbiz. Yet while skeptic eyebrows may be raised about how "Carmi never gained weight anyway," she firmly begs to differ. "I know that some people doubt that I had to go to Marie France to stay slim and sexy. They say, 'Carmi Martin? Eh sexy na yan lintaw! They're right, but I used to be slimmer in my younger years. When I got to around 29, I started gaining a bit. When you get older your metabolism slows down. I went from being 118 to 127 lbs. I got fat on my thighs, then my tummy. I tried dieting but just ate more when I got hungry.

As for lipo, I didn't want the risk and besides, if you gain weight again the body doesn't look proportioned! With Marie France everything's safe. There's no surgery, no crazy dieting, no pills. I even kept the waistline that I had 20 years ago!"

It seems hard to believe that she ever had a problem with weight, but how Carmi maintained her svelte physique is the result of a disciplined, healthy lifestyle. "She doesn't deprive herself of the occasional dessert; of course the reality is, compared to years ago, it is harder to burn the calories.

This is because your ability to eat all the cake without restraint when you were 18 and not gain a pound slowly disappears when you age. As the years add up, so do the pounds as one's metabolism naturally slows down. And sometimes even with the proper diet and regular exercise, there are stubborn areas of fat that just don't seem to budge. Even women like Carmi, who have naturally slim bodies when they are young, may also have problems with excess weight in the future.

The good news is there are procedures nowadays that can fix those stubborn areas with safe, effective, non-invasive treatments. Marie France offers a wide array of treatments that are suited for particular weight and inch problems.

So how does one achieve such an enviable figure like Carmi's? Here are a few suggestions:

FOR THOSE ON THE HEAVY SIDE

Try the Fat Mobilization System (FMS)! FMS will melt away excess fat so you can lose the excess weight, flabs and bulges.

FOR LOWER ABS

The Physique Inch Loss will help you firm up and lose those excess inches off your waist. So effortless, a 20-minute session is already equivalent to 229 sit-ups!

FOR THAT THICK MID-SECTION

Electro-lipolysis is the solution for you! You'll get rid of those "love handles" and "spare tire" problems for a leaner figure.

How Many Pounds Do You Want to Lose This Year?

Start the year right with a new outlook on your health and physical well-being! Lose the excess pounds, remove those unwanted inches. Do it the safe, effective and easy way – without surgery, pills, injections or crazy diets! Marie France offers a state-of-the-art, non-surgical, non-invasive treatments to get rid of those stubborn areas of fat in virtually any part of your body that don't seem to budge. Here are some suggestions from Marie France's In-House Physician Dr. Ariel Torres about different problem areas and the specific treatments suited for them:

OVERALL BODY FAT

Overweight to obese people can benefit from the Fat Mobilization System (FMS). This treatment aids in general weight loss and inch loss. It enhances one's metabolism even while at rest! Each FMS session burns as much as 2,800 calories in only 25 minutes.

HIPS, HEAVY BOTTOM (PEAR-SHAPED)

The Vela Pulse treatment can liquefy fat deposits and break down stubborn fat that cause cellulite. It is proven effective in improving thigh shape with real and lasting results. The Passage Detoxifirm System can also reduce saddlebags and prevent the body from storing too much water, thereby improving the leg shape.

STUBBORN LOWER ABS

Electro-lipolysis reduces tummy fat for a firmer and flatter abdomen. It is ideal for treating "love handles" and "spare tire" problems. Physique Inch-loss will also help tone and firm up sagging areas while strengthening body muscles. A single 15-minute session is already equivalent to 225 sit-ups.

BIGGER UPPER BODY (APPLE-SHAPED)

This type is usually due to non-aqueous cellulite (or trapped fat that is composed of more fat than water). Fat Mobilization System will help eliminate the excess fat, and Endermologie, the first US-FDA approved medical treatment for cellulite reduction, will reduce the hard, dimpled appearance of cellulite.

POST-PREGNANCY POUNDS

The secret to effectively losing post-natal fat is to lose it in 3-6 months after delivery. Start with the Fat Mobilization System, combined with other aforementioned treatments if there are particular problem areas, and for the last few inches you want to lose, Lifestyle, the non-surgical alternative to liposuction, which promises an average inch loss of 2 cm in a single treatment.

"For a more accurate assessment of your body type and appropriate treatments, call Marie France at 894-BODY (2639) for a FREE consultation.

SOME NUTRITIONAL FACTS ACCORDING TO DR. ARIEL TORRES:

1 Eat 3 moderate meals and 2 small snacks per day. Avoid binges that are few and far between. The purpose of the snack is to avoid being very hungry at your next meal that you tend to binge. But if snacking only makes you more hungry (serves as an appetizer), then you can totally remove the snacks.

2 Carbohydrates are good. They are considered energy food that we need everyday not only for work or daily living but just to survive. However, they become bad if you don't use them. So your carbohydrate intake will depend on your activities for the day. In general, you need more of it in the earlier part of your day which is why toast, oatmeal, cereals and oatmeal are eaten at breakfast. In reverse, you need less of it during the latter part of your day so try to minimize if not totally remove it at night.

3 Eating before you sleep is not always bad for you. When we rest (sleep) at the latter part of our day (usually at night), our body repairs itself. At the same time, our body also replenishes itself with substances used for the day. So it's ok to eat during the latter part of your day even just before sleeping, but concentrate more on repair materials (proteins) like lean meat with fruits and vegetables (rich sources of vitamins and minerals).

4 Be a variety of food. Don't just eat vegetables and fruits but make sure you eat a variety of them. To check, enumerate what you ate the last week. Did it involve more than 7 types of vegetables and more than 5 types of fruits? If not, then you are not necessarily eating a balanced diet. You are missing out on some of the vitamins and minerals that may be rich in others but few in what you are currently used to eating.

5 Consider your cooking methods. In eating a variety of food, the same goes with meat and how it is cooked. Try to have seafood, poultry, beef and pork but not the fatty ones more often and have the cholesterol-rich ones rarely and in small amounts. Try to minimize also those that are greasy and oily in preparation. In essence, eat more steamed fish and less of sautéed crab eggs. Eat more grilled chicken meat and less of fried chicken skin. Eat more broiled beef and less of pork adobo/menudo/sisig. In oils as well,

INQUIRER

OPINION

Seven lean years

SOMETIMES A REVOLUTION DOES NOT DEVOUR its children; sometimes it is the revolution that is consumed...by its once-beneficiaries.

This, more or less, is how many Filipinos regard the series of historic events we call Edsa II. While the second epiphany of people power was not a revolution but a limited and direct democratic action, it is now understood by many to have been devoured at the table of history—that

EDITORIAL

is to say, de-legitimized—by the greed of its own beneficiaries.

Is it any wonder then Presidente Macapagal-Arroyo has declined to celebrate her own accession to power? (The transition took place seven years ago today.) The refusal has been couched in the usual language of reconciliation, but in truth the Arroyo administration has betrayed the ideals that brought it to power. It prefers that this people forget.

Edsa II, in the first place, was the response of a moral people repulsed by the ugly scheming that sought to undermine the very system designed to hold even the presidency itself to account. When pro-Estrada senators engineered to block the use of potentially incriminating evidence at the impeachment trial, public outrage exploded. A people in the process of being educated on the responsibilities and accountabilities of public officials (live coverage of the impeachment trial was that new), men-and-women TV suddenly found themselves face to face with blithely irresponsible officials, discouraging accountability.

In the seven years since then, of course, the Arroyo administration has achieved to protect the presidency from all accountability—and with markedly greater success. It outmaneuvered all impeachment drives in the House of Representatives, emptied the streets with a repressive yet reassuringly policy, prevented officials of the Executive and the armed services from testifying on controversial issues before Congress, ignored the import of investigative reports it had itself commissioned.

No wonder it prefers official amnesia.

But Edsa II was also the response of a moral people outraged by the large-scale larceny the every-man-for-himself-and-his-minions ethos that marked the Estrada administration. That "weather-vane" quote from one of his underlings, succinctly describing policies as a wheel of fortune, captures the character of the Estrada years: in any instance, a cliche assumption that it is the right of incumbent officials to make hay while the political sun shines, an un-ironic view that governance is redoubtable to politics.

The Sandiganbayan decision last September, convicting Estrada of two of four plunder charges, plumbs the official decadence of those years: the virtual centralization of looting, the illegal numbers game, right in Malacañang; the creation of billion-peso accounts under fictitious names; the use of official pressure to force government agencies to help enemy companies and earn a fully profit in the process. Indeed, it can be argued that other allegations that were not proven to judicial standards had enough evidence to support a finding of moral certainty.)

This is why Estrada himself is engaged in an all-out effort to make people forget the events that led to Edsa II. He is doing that, in part, by attacking the historical nature of Edsa II itself. Consider, for instance, the full page newspaper advertisement his political party took out the other day, reproducing adverse international commentary on his people-powered ouster. Or consider his battle cry of the last seven years, that he was the victim of a conspiracy.

But the political schemes of the Arroyo administration do not constitute proof of conspiracy. (We should not misread this to mean that no organized political group set out to seize the political opportunity in January 2001. There were, in fact, several efforts, but in the end we have to assume for the emergence of people power itself. If there is anything we have learned since the democratic restoration in 1986, it is that people power cannot be sustained at will.)

Seven lean years on, it is hard to recall the heady days of Edsa II. But we must struggle to remember, in part because of those who want us to forget.

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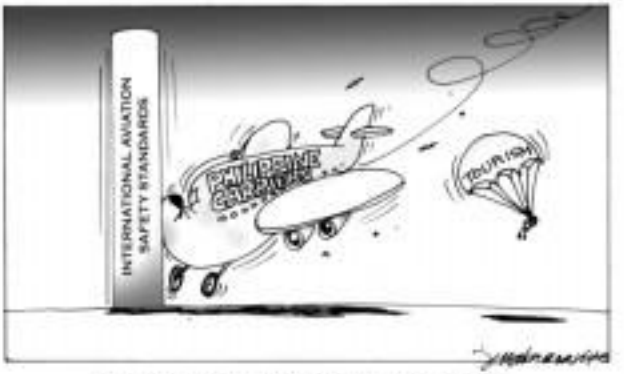

The lesson of the Iowa primaries

I AM SO ASHAMED OF THE UNITED STATES except for its great institutions like Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln, the more recent ones Justices Oliver Wendell Holmes, Louis D. Brandeis and Benjamin N. Cardozo; a number of senators writers (unsurpassed by John O'Hara and Ruben Vitan; literary documentaries and children films in general; and scores of lively trivial activities, including Dolnoch days and, of course, MacDo's Mocha.

I have in fact written much against the shameful attitude of many of our country men—the ridiculous "Amboy" or admiring everything about the United States, the good as well as the bad done to people, as if they were perfect models for us to follow; my travel is decidedly visionless. The "green card" is for ultimately unconditional citizenship in that blind, deaf and dumb country. Ironically, sometimes, being a Filipino is only a secondary and even disadvantageous status and obstacle to their dream of being Americans.

The "farmer's Halloween" as I call it illustrates my point. Halloween is a tradition in America with no story possibilities, imaginary phantasmas and the legendary Headless Dame accompanying the little children with tricks or treats in every unknowing house where the grown-ups gathers in unpretended horror-costumes and enjoy some fun and drinks—if this was not so, it's a national pastime series. Filipino homes resume with creepy habilitations straight from Dracula to give the frightened a bit of New York. Our boys are encouraged by their parents to spit-decorate children as if not more in the good old USA. And what you, dear, are the good reasons to like the shivering and the trembling and to shiver the shameful bones of the like of elevation.

And we also celebrate Thanksgiving Day in Edsa commemorating the American landing at the Mayflower, and on the same day now as in America, on the third Thursday of November.

Bagaani A. Cruz

The above observations are only an introduction to the main theme of this article, which is the results of the Iowa primaries held the other Thursday. The surveys were wrong again in the Democratic and Republican polls, which both resulted in surprising upsets. Among the Democrats, Barack Obama won with 38 percent against John Edwards who made 30 percent and Hillary Clinton, the expected front-runner, with only 29 percent. Among the Republicans, the conservative governor's white Huckabee headed the list with 34 percent against Mitt Romney with 25 percent, Fred Thompson and John McCain with 13 percent, and Rudy Giuliani, the supposed favorite, with only 3 percent.

What impressed me most about these results was that the winners did not spend in their campaigns as much as their rivals, particularly Clinton and Romney. Clinton had the biggest campaign kitty from her many moneyraised supporters all over the country, so Obama her supposed "overachiever" versus the other candidates in Iowa. In the Republican camp, the big spender was Romney who reported in campaign still with all his dollars away from the first place position—obtained by both of them last.

This reminds me of the sad experience of my father, who ran in the MP convention in the BROADWAY of Manila in 1953 for reelection to the then congressional position of councilor he had topped in the 1951 election. All the other candidates distributed fat envelopes with cash to the delegates but my father obtained that kind of shabby campaigning and gave only the 4 bus for the delegates to use in the last convention hall. The delegates, he came out last and last. The sardines dismissed against him was "Ayang si Cruz, walang binigay kasi! Aangat!" (That Cruz, all he gave was air!)

And so I add another subject of my limited admiration for the United States. I am always impressed by the civic spirit and honesty of the voters in Iowa who participated in the Democratic and Republican primaries and those use the almighty dollar as their principal criterion in choosing the winners. Americans are famous for their summary character as demonstrated by their financial sources in the commercial world. But they proved to town that there are higher values they cherish, like character and competence, in the choice of their public officials.

I am not suggesting that Clinton and Romney lose in Iowa because they bought votes; in fact they spent their dollars for legitimate campaigning through television and radio commercials, print and billboard advertisements, and telephone postal and personal presentations except that they exerted more effort because they could afford to do so. This was not taken against them, but it was not taken in their favor either. Rightly or wrongly, she was not chosen the winners on the basis of their fat purse and promises, and not because they had plenty of dollars, as in the later Presidents of the United States.

In seeking and upholding the integrity of the ballot, the voters in Iowa have given the Filipino people an excellent example of good citizenship that we should scrupulously follow. This time I am sincerely urging my countrymen to imitate the good people of Iowa. In our next national election in 2010, in as much as the candidates for president will be only two, our delibers and not the independents of money and guns and cheap entertainment.

Seeing and remembering

Fr. Jerrey M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY IS TOLD ABOUT TWO SISTERS in some primary grade who are having the bath, the first one said: "Oh! you are more like Mother!"

The second one said: "Yup! But, I cannot remember!"

* * *

In today's Gospel (Mt. 18, 1-5, 10), Jesus reminds us to see ourselves as children, and to remember that it is the humble who are the greatest in the Kingdom of God. How do you see yourself? Some grown-up "big-shots"? Do you still remember what humility is all about?

* * *

Humility is the key to peace in our humble lives. If we humble ourselves before God and before one another, we will become open to every situation which is a presupposition for true peace. As we grow older, may we continue to see before ourselves, not with, and to remember the open doors, not fences, behind us.

* * *

Today is the feast of the Sto. Niño. Let the innocence of children make us see and remember that we were once children, that we were once joyful, innocent and free. As an opener video, let us not forget the beautiful video of a child—himself, a daughter, his dog, and trees. Today ask yourself: What has happened to me? Why have I become so proud? Why have I become so angry? Why have I become so complicated? Why have I become so sad? Why? Where you have become blinded by worldly lights, and you have forgotten that you have a mission for God in this life.

* * *

Speaking of mission, last Jan. 16-18, we were in Divine Word Seminary Tagaytay (where I was ordained priest some 27 years ago) for our "Philippine SVD General Province Assembly and Chapter." It was a refreshing experience just to go back and remember long ago memories, and just to break bread with confreres once again. It was three days of sharing and remembering. It was like being a child again. Yes, we need moments when we must stop, pause a while, when we do not take ourselves too seriously, when we realize that there is a God, and we're not Him.

* * *

We rejoice with you. We must not "rest on our laurels," for definitely there is a lot of soul-searching, a lot of reaching out and a lot of mission to be done still, especially in our vision to be "witnesses to the Word" in the Philippines and in the world. Yes, we know in Whom we believe!

* * *

Our founder, St. Arnold Janssen, SVD, and our first missionary to China, St. Joseph Freinademetz, from Tyrol must be smiling from heaven above. Little did they know that the seed they have sown is now is still sometimes gone, to God be the glory. Thank you Mama Mae). "May the darkness of sin and the night of unbelief vanish before the light of the world, and may the Heart of Jesus live in the hearts of all."

* * *

Another missionary has been killed in Mindanao. Fr. Jesus Reynaldo Roda, CssR, was 53 years old. Muslims and Christians alike are united in grieving for their dead friend and in condemning the killing. In the meantime, the priests found in Mindanao, particularly those belonging to the Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions (PIME), the congregation of Fr. Giancarlo Bossi who was kidnapped last year, are praying for him to be released before Christ that they will be killed or kidnapped. Back to discipleship. Such a mission. Such a love.

* * *

Jan. 31-27 is National Bible Week. This year's theme is: "God's Word: Source of Justice, Reconciliation and Peace." Do you have a Bible? Do you read the Bible? Do you live the Bible?

* * *

Inviting you to join me in a special pastoral to Baguio, Diocesan for a visit to the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes and the Royal City of Dagupan. 18 to 23, for more details, please call 5258585 to 88.

* * *

Ramay Manaoda invites you as a lay forum on the topic "Aging Parents and Elder Care," on Jan. 26, 2008, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon at Arnaldo Janssen Hall, Christ the King Seminary, 1. Rodriguez Boulevard, Quezon City. The speaker will be Dr. Evelina Santos Bergen. For inquiries please call 8744163-000/8744163-000.

A testimonial with the Lord:

Lord, help me to constantly remember that you are healing, and to constantly remember my calling. Amen.

OFWs unite! 'A Test of Courage'

"11 HEROES UPON HEIGHTS ARE SET TO FLY," bellows the headline [1/30/05]. The irony is that I can still flooded with e-mail from OFWs demanding their travels. Some people never stop, consequence ideas. For instance, where dollar remittances in First World countries should be exempted from obtaining clearances. In exchange, they will waive travel tax and no need for re-entry visas. Others want the Philippine Overseas Employment Agency (POEA) to not demand online registrations and issuance of documents. It's the Department of Foreign Affairs that creates passports online, why can't the POEA do the same?

Document collection. There are many other suggestions. In summary, they tell me the POEA requirements and its processes and its personnel has been ignored. This is why I agree with Fr. Catarino Bilbao-Arce (Inner Singapore) that OFWs should unite. In the very short comments mailed to me, I can see that they have very good suggested reforms (others, unrelated and presented to the proper authorities, especially the President. I tell OFWs worldwide to e-mail their gripes, stories and suggested reforms to Dr. Bilbao-Arce (whose unrelated postal note), web copy to me.

Three days from today, I will also forward to her all the e-mail I have received. Should any of the latter considers one more their mail forwarded, please inform me before Wednesday. By noting and organizing, OFWs will get to the core and not their time and to "keeping her sane."

I have not heard anymore from POEA Administrator Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz. Other than the electronic [2] each here to allegedly "negotiating with Globe and Smart ... to replace the paper ID[,]" is worse she has so much influence in your group, no program to touch good monitors and tight cooker to POEA personnel, no counter [illegible] OFW room beside here. This is sad. Sir, OFWs make billions every year, they will not go to the cash and no real will have their time to see "keeping her sane."

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"A Test of Courage" is at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 22. "A Test of Courage" will be handled at the Ateneo University Auditorium. According to the authors, Ms Evelyn Miranda-Feliciano and former Senate President Jovito R. Salonga, the book is a "tribute to the men and women of the Supreme Court, the Philippine Bar and the Filipino people."

Because I happened to read the Court in the time, the Solicitor and Senator Salonga forged an abnormal passion to me. I am humbled and honored by this unlikely. Because the unlikely people behind "A Test of Courage" are the members of the 2004 Court, namely, Chief Justice Reynato S. Puno (the former Chief Justice), Leonardo A. Quisumbing, Consuelo Ynares-Santiago, Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez, Antonio T. Carpio, Ms. Alicia Austria-Martinez, Renato C. Corona, Carolina Griño-Aquino, Romeo J. Callejo Sr., Adolfo S. Azcuna, Dante O. Tinga, Minita V. Chico-Nazario, Conchita Carpio Morales, Ruben T. Reyes, Ms. Ma. Lourdes P. A. Sereno and Presbitero J. Velasco Jr.

Do behalf of my colleagues and on my own, I thank the authors and their collaborators ... Ellen Tordesillas, Bernie Esmangrana, Regina Publishing and the Ateneo University, which is proudly celebrating its 100th anniversary ... for this "forgery of our history in print."

I met Senator Salonga more than 20 years ago when he was my dean and professor in the PLT Institute of Law. Since then up to the present, he has been my lifetime mentor and guru to me. I owe the labyrinths of the law, his more impressions, on honors, more adult-world living.

On the other hand, I was formally introduced to Ms Feliciano quite recently, only on Aug. 14, 2004 during the "Philippine Daily Inquirer" Write for Rights at Power Above" on the Quirino Grandstand. I had admired her from afar often reading her "Enjoy the Sunset, Living Fully and Aging Well" (2000, 2003 Limited Edition).

The book can be bought during the Salonga ceremonies and, thereafter, at the Ateneo Press, 3 Fleet Street, Ateneo Loop, Marcelo Green City. Tel. 634-6868 or 634-6869. The hardbound sells for P600 and the softbound, for P350.

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, President 34 is engaged in two personal business points when she created a search committee to screen nominees for the vacancies that will not members of the Commission on Elections. But these points were negated by her refusal to respect the nominees submitted by the committee. The whole point of the screening was to give the voters here political watchdogs an opportunity to examine the credentials of the nominees, voice their comments and inform the President in making her choices.

By being excessive, Malacañang presumes on the appointive powers of her office like the Constitution, Supreme Court and the chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. The President can repeat her executive credibility through appointive [illegible] appointments process.

It is good to Daniel most ... bridges, airports and other structures that public money can buy. But the most important legacies we chose that money cannot buy, like strengthening democratic institutions, promoting the rule of law, and fostering the inner values of integrity, accountability and transparency. GMA has two-and-a-half years more before she exits in 2010. She can still leave a lasting legacy. But she should begin soon. Or never.

Comments are welcome at jbalgos@gmail.com

The people we honor

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

I DO SOMETIMES CHATTING WITH NATIONAL ARTIST for Literature "Nick" Rene Lumbera before the blues to mark the EDT. He was an amazing guy to research, and we got to talking about the lessons learned in surviving Martial Artist in this day and age.

The subject came up because Lumbera had mentioned that he wouldn't be able to make it to the anniversary dinner David Lee-night at the Intramuros Philippine Theater because he would have to be on his way to Bacolod. He would be receiving the country's "Silay Cup," "Hall of Fame," I teased him, "we can't get in the way of such a heavy responsibility."

I have talk defined in the Senate grained his post as first National Artist for Literature. Lumbera's fame among them, by the CP Institute of Creative Writing and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts. The first mentioned writers and poets are from Cebu and Negros, and I'm sure they also shared their sensibilities and informed their work. At the same time, said Leo Zulueta, public-service division of UPT, and his/their writers and artists, "the literature and history from a region" to the national literature. "Nick's work, dubbed as the 'Cebuano Renaissance' recognized the whole-hearted Lumbera of the welcome we needed him be Sept. Day. "There were moments all around the city honoring and welcoming me, and the young people were cheering for me when I arrived in their schools."

This year, now deputy to press release, the same National Artists—including Cecile from Lumbera, Edith Tiempo, Alejandro Roces, Francisco Arcellana and Virgilio Almario—will be conducting lectures, workshops, performances and other activities around the country. Lumbera will be running Basic Music Mindanao High School, where he served as its director; play "Bilak sa Himagsik sa Pitu-tulan Lakewa" will be staged by Bulwang III.

REMEMBER all the honors heaped upon my friend Amina Rasul? Well, it's not over yet. Last December 22, "A Test of Courage" will be handled at the Ateneo University Auditorium. According to the authors, Ms Evelyn Miranda-Feliciano and former Senate President Jovito R. Salonga, the book is a "tribute to the men and women of the Supreme Court, the Philippine Bar and the Filipino people."

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The storyteller

A CONFIDENCE HE HAS, IT CONCERNS THAT SLICED INTO a small rectangle, framed in cute, about his doorframe. During the Japanese occupation, he would tell them, taking into broad traffic, among the women of Caviar. His father was a banker who died when he but was very young. And to when he, his mother and three little sisters moved to Davao after the divorce, he shined shoes and sold cigarettes, candy and newspapers. At the age of 14, he followed in his mothers' entrepreneurial and picked

REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE

Patricia Evangelista

One day he looked in the mirror, and decided he was too big a man to remain an enlisted man. Carpenter master, construction worker. From Monday to Saturday he pounded nails on the corner of Highway 54 in Tala, earning P5.75 a day. He says 40 years that was made to offer him a commission, an eight he studied mechanical engineering. On Sundays, he climbed to BJTC in the morning, and here were mechanical drawings for six hours in the afternoon. During the week his lawyer was packed with his business notebook and his various other tools, along with his lunch, his school uniform, and his T-square. He describes all this with a grin, and with the gleeful ease of memories of a soldier in kindergarten who counts trains burning with stones.

He says there was another job he did, and when the pay disappears, and his mouth goes tight and grim. There was a time when workers were hired to clean out repair tanks. "I was the tallest, so when an unrepaired everything except the barracks, I had to climb down an inch-square rusty and bandaged inches of water."

Now he sits behind a large table in a blue-and-white striped shirt. What is left of his hair, white mingled with grey, is still cut close to his skull. The network of wrinkles around his face disappears with his grin, as he explains how he decided to join the Philippine Military Academy. The first time he wanted was man—none, he corrects himself—could become a second lieutenant, and enter a captain. His eyes are bright. "I didn't know a man could be promoted regularly, not just to captain, but all the way up to four star general—and even senator."

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon talks about filling in love in the Academy with the picture of a woman taped to another cadet's locker. He reaches into his wallet while he talks. She was his classmate's very young man, whom the senator swore to watch her promotion.

"But you tell her this was his school?" I ask.

He looks down once, and he hesitates the question for a bird flutters in the window. "Well what do you think of her?"

"She's beautiful," I say.

He takes the picture back, and accepts the compliment as nothing more than his due. "See," the picture, he says, is the same one on the locker, only this one is a copy he laminated. "The real one got knocked through the years." And the old woman's face, the one in the picture, is now a widow's face (November 1986) long, eight his than on his palm and thanks to be thinks of the wife he sighs still his senses were born grown in hours. Women always were those dreams and epiphanies age."

And on the senator sits his next—those his dates did—dates, and the senator takes on a new softer pose as when days were very young and were told to stuff she as those Biazon grew up with about his 21 grandchildren, whom he accompanies from he inspiring them to watch films and clean after resting. "But grandpa, if you did that when you were young, it was because you didn't have a senator for a grandfather," would indeed, from anonymity to Manchukuo, when a few Japanese drones in a dogfight, and the Japanese for eggplant to flag as his thumbs or his pal he's about the nation Damayan he who told him also he landed on his campaign. Boys that it would be better if there were something similar to hundred-peso bill: much inside, and about the time who visited outside the Senate during his campaign asking for hundred-peso bills. "I told them to tell the instructions to tell their neighbors not to vote for Biazon."

Senator Biazon voted for the opening of Kendall's controversial second envelope. He voted for the Mutang Biazon Agreement, and recounted his support a while after the word for the death penalty, before he ended his morning ride a bill that withdrawal from the Philippines of the United Nations Convention on Cooperatives and a review of our tariff schedules. He believes political patronage is at the root of all our problems, although according to SSS laws, he allowed about his P870 thousand pension—raised, almost P80 million—to Bienvenido Gey, whose his son Romeo Padua is still convicted. The senator is against giving backing to just the two camps. Said the Gloc Manuel group, the nationalists, and unions on better models of sins for rebel soldiers under trial. He forbids Senate Secretary Raul Gonzalez's claim of a January 2004 destabilization plot, claiming it could be part of the "theatre" to pass the way for the total extinction of Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Efren Angeles Espinosa Jr.

The last time we left the military, he says, is it turned down during internal law to this power is tied no right to. "Since the 1986 Edsa Revolution, some of us—not all—believed that it should not be the end of it. That brought the coups or coups, with the military maintaining the thought that [it] still had a role to play outside its strict 'no to getting mixed up' in the country's political situation—the soldier will believe his own effectiveness."

As to political killings and national disappearances, Biazon argues that a credible resolution, especially since it is the Chief Executive herself who invited Philip Alston, the European Union and other foreign groups to study the cases. He himself was once the victim of a kidnapping by human rights group Karapatan, all of which he exonerated, so both the Armed Forces and the Commission on Human Rights. So recipients, he says.

There are very few in politics, whose names have been linked to controversy as little as Senator Biazon. I am told by another journalist close to get high on the military's direct acquaintance that he is the most honest, and good man of the political good men. I do not know how close the senator is, because there is very little to know. I have little faith in government and the military, but there is something about the senator that makes me want to believe.

I wonder what compromises he made for him to become senator.

"When I ran for office for the first time, I supported populism and gender responsive legislation. I was ashamed to stop it because the opposition to population control is well-funded and well-organized. I was told I would lose. 'If I lose,' I said, 'then I lose.' I was willing to lose ... he uttered me. Take out give volume if I lose," I told him."

He stops, and he smiles and I smile. "I did not lose."

* * *

For comments or mail what impact or thread: new

What about the world?

WORLD VIEW

Richard N. Haass

AS AMERICANS PREPARE FOR INAUGURATION AND NEW BEGINNINGS, it is right, impossible to ponder who will be the Democrats, and Republican nominees, much less who will become the 44th president of the United States. But it is never too soon to address the questions of what effect the next president will have on the campaign and what it would do about how Americans see the world.

To the purveyor of inner-seasoned observers, foreign policy is becoming really a modern subject on the campaign. This is unfortunate, because only six months ago the war in Iraq dominated the political landscape. Although Iraq still matters a lot to Americans, its importance for domestic voting has clearly now has receded, partly because the war is not going as badly as it was, but also because the country remains ambivalent as to gradually improving. As a result, desire to considerably less public pressure to do something dramatically different.

Foreign policy has also become less salient than it was only months ago as the climate of war between the United States and Iraq has diminished, reducing the intensity published. National Intelligence Estimate on Iraq's nuclear program. The judgment by America's intelligence community that Iran has suspended its nuclear weapons development program, and, more importantly, that its large-scale uranium enrichment capacity is likely to be more—postponed the day when a US president may have to decide between living with an Iranian bomb or bombing Iran.

A third reason for the modest impact of international issues on voters' choice of the next president is another surprising development: more agreement between and among the leading candidates than there was ever. There is remarkable of the Democratic candidates, for example, around the notion that the United States should remain in Iraq for some time to come, albeit with a reduced level of military forces.

There may also be basic national divisions between parties in the emotional losing game to the quantity and quality of candidates' foreign experience. A desire for "change" is a common refrain of the American debate, but is a far from being the only one.

Renewed interest in foreign policy and the rest of the area he'd could control of's have seen a dramatic overseas development. Yet, since this is for media ago, related states Pakistan Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz's visit to Washington, and Secretary of State Colin Powell's trip to several Republican candidates' aides were called upon to explain what they would be prepared to do if there were an opportunity as exposes Daniel Bellen or a need to ensure Pakistan's nuclear weapons.

Likewise, Iraq would remain to center stage if the positive assessments of weeks months were suddenly reversed, perhaps following a new outbreak of violence between the country's Sunni and Shia. The United States and is to could get to new and even more dramatic measures to change key behavior on the part of the Revolutionary Guards (as occurred recently in the case of Hezbollah), with Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad possibly seeking to preserve a crisis as a tool to distract domestic attention from his economic failures. Other in Pakistan could derail down even more rapidly. A terrorist attack could reveal interactions of their fundamental vulnerability. The possibilities are endless.

America's next president will face a host of challenges—and how he or she responds will affect not only America but the entire world as well. At the moment, though, foreign policy will have only an indirect influence on the American choice.

Project Syndicate

Richard N. Haass is president of the Council on Foreign Relations and author of "The Opportunity: How to Make Difference in Your Believe's Course."

TALK of the TOWN

Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

Carpool

It gives me a ride four out of the five school days each week, saves me gas, and helps reduce air-pollution caused by too many automobiles

Angelo Bermudez, 19
Sophomore
AB European Studies

CARPOOLING makes more sense than ever in the wake of global warming and high fuel prices.

A carpool system developed by residents of Ayala Alabang in Muntinlupa, who study at the Ateneo de Manila University in Quezon City, shows that it saves them a substantial amount of fuel and toll—about a million pesos a month. The arrangement also reduces the volume of carbon dioxide that their vehicles emit into the atmosphere by some 40 tons a month. (See computations.)

We hope that other people with cars can learn from the experience of the carpool system in Alabang and set up their own. —Ed

By Ruby G. Perez

WHAT DO TRAFFIC, POLLUTION and high fuel consumption have in common? They are occasions that the Alabang carpool addresses for us businesses and educational institutions (colleges and universities) of the Philippine Christian academies living in Ayala Alabang and nearby subdivisions.

The traffic relief on the South Luzon Expressway has helped us profess the art of conserving in and out of here. That grocery of somewhere in Edsa, C-5, can be just as bad in Edsa on the way home. Lousy traffic, eat-well! Just too many vehicles despite mass-bet riding!

I started the daily drive to Katipunan in Quezon City and back to Alabang in Muntinlupa for a spell as I began my freshman year. Result? Lack of sleep! Wasted hours on my wheels in buses on schedule!

Fortunately, as I came to discover, help was just around the corner. Ateneans in Alabang had long agoes up a pooling of efforts kind of grouping: a carpool. In a carpool, a number of people going to the same destination agree to meet at a designated place at a particular time and use fewer cars.

Alabang I

Carpooling to Alabang is more than 20 years old. Originally, two independent carpooling groups were set up: "Alabang 1" and "Alabang 2." Si. most Atheneans, who graduated from college at the Ateneo in 2005, joined Alabang 1 when he was only in Grade 5. He recalls that Alabang 1 then had only 30 members but the number has steadily thrived to the present.

The membership rose to 60 at Alabang 2 failed to grow as fast, forcing a merger in 2004 with Alabang 1 for practical reasons.

Today, about 160 members make up the surviving Alabang 1. Of the members, roughly 80 percent live in Ayala Alabang while the rest come from neighboring villages, including Ayala South, Filinvest, Alabang Hills and BF Homes.

Trust

The whole system is a study in efficiency based on necessity and trust.

Each member is tasked with calling to his or her vehicle an assigned group of riders to and from school once a week. Since the members' turns at hosting take on the basis for drawing up the carpool schedule, nine assignments are always in favor of the riders. And given the number of members, a one-in-a-week assured of having a bunch of fellow students with similar schedules.

To illustrate, assume that come for an 8:30 a.m. class has 30 riders on the list. The will require four members to bring their cars and accommodate four riders each. That seems the 2C condition for our green trip.

The process: Cars go to the "terminal" at or 7:15 a.m. and take in riders, depending on member's capacity. For example, assume that one of the cars can take in five riders, including the driver. That car will take four out of the 30 from the terminal and leave the remaining 25 to be transported by the other three cars.

Returning home from school, the process is the same, although label assignments are determined by the riders' individual dismissal times. This means that a car's group of riders in the morning may differ in the afternoon.

'Don't be late'

Say the whole week, riders have the convenience of available transport to and from school. The only rule is, don't be late. A grace period of 10 minutes before every trip is given to accommodate the arrival of cars and boarding of riders. Cars are given the go-signal to leave once the grace period is over. A rider who comes in late by over nine minutes will have to find another way to get to school.

Two assembly points or terminals are designated for the carpool: Madrigal Avenue in Ayala Alabang and the "Car house" at the Ateneo. Madrigal Avenue is the main road of Ayala Alabang, which makes this street accessible to most riders. Also, it is close to the main exit of the village.

Hazard lights

The Car house is the pickup and dropoff point at the Ateneo because it is one of the buildings in the campus.

As the terminals, one can easily spot cars on duty because their hazard lights are turned on. Every so often, a spokesperson or in the Car house, unaware of the "hazard-operating procedure," would have to turn off a light on, and somebody (usually a member of the riders) is the car. Once "enlightened," the culprits simply let out a good laugh, hanging their hands in embarrassment just a wee bit.

Like any lively organization, its stated how disciplined or efficient, will have its delinquents.

With Alabang 1, it isn't unheard of for cars to fail to show up or be late for their designated trips, causing some students to miss their classes. The excuses given range from limited cars to debilitated alarm clocks!

Fine, hats trail

The delinquent driver is fined P1,000 to serve as a deterrent. Likewise, the "no-show" is provided a backup car on the quick. To ensure that the rule is enforced, the first rider to report a "no show" is paid P200 from the P1,000 fine. As a result, cases of late and absent cars are kept to a minimum.

Because this is a college-dominated organization, news about ministries of the shelter tends to spread fast. Articles for the terms and gossip include e-mail messages in the carpool's Yahoo! Group. Announced, as it is commonly called, is often very entertaining, especially if there are multiple senders.

Once, a high schoolers-majored trip for all of two weeks, triggering an outpour of laser mail. The boy was expelled from the carpool the following year.

Coordinators

Carpool constituents, all of them students—as this is an organization for students run by students—monitor each functions.

The coordinator-in-charge are made up of four persons and one senior from the Ateneo. One of the junior coordinators tried to explain the ratio: "He other seniors were willing or dependable enough to accept the responsibility—when pairs of carpool head."

Carlos Bautista said.

Scheduling, addressing complaints and memorizing the carpool's efficiency are just a few of the responsibilities of the coordinators.

The post, Jenny Herrera (AB Economics), lands's between OB European Studies), Mel Dimampao (AB Management Economics), Ivi Joaquin (AB Psychology), and Isabel Ubi-Mac (political sci) are the guiding hands of Alabang 1. carpool. She says she enjoys the part of the ongoing set of coordinators. Seniors are kind-hearted, and freshmen are welcomed with open arms.

Parents' consent

How to join the club? Very simple: application forms are accessed online through the carpool's Yahoo! Group. Applications, determined, print out and fill out the form which asks for one's address, class schedule, particulars of his or her vehicle, including color, and most importantly, the parents' consent.

Applications are open continuously as long slots have small that riders and regulations and will follow them.

On a predetermined date, usually a few weeks before classes start, both forms are dropped into a mailbox located outside Ayala Ateneo. There, drivers the applications enough time to draw up the carpool's schedule for the forthcoming semester.

School-issued card

Around the second week of school, with the carpool schedule having had enough time to settle down, the school issues laminated cards for vehicles—color-coded to indicate drivers' parents or student drivers—as every member for easier recognition of carpool cars.

The cards are also a means of minimizing unauthorized vehicles while it increases security for riders as the card serves as proof of membership.

The Loyola Schools have also designated a parking area for carpoolers, itself a privilege. It also increases security for riders as it is a given time and day of the week, although some semesters, sadly, one reserved parking space denied carpoolers despite prompt payments and registrations for those with the extension. Schools change, so to say, in bad semesters!

To pay for the laminated cards and carpool parking, a fee of P50 per semester is required upon registration.

Socialization skills

Like most organizations, Alabang 1 doesn't just exist for a single purpose. It also sharpens our socialization skills! Every year, the freshmen, new members of the carpool, are tasked with hosting a party for the group in their "terminal" in the club.

Carpool has also helped in surrounding. Many lower classmen have wangled invitations into from the seniors on professors to seek and "nerners" to social. Some have come away happy after simply being told where to go to hang out or where the best girls there. Ironically though, the carpool of fords all a camaraderie based on mutual trust and convenience.

(Questions: What's been holding up the school year's pace?)

Savings

With our carpool, the environment also benefits.

Take this: gas emission from our 32 cars (possibly fewer, if we include the vans) as opposed to 188 cars...if all of us carpool members each brought a car to the Ateneo—would result in a substantial increase in poisonous air pollution. Oil consumption also blows down.

To illustrate: of 160 cars making a round trip to and from Ateneo with consume roughly to 1,120 liters of fuel, 33 cars will burn only 280 liters. That's P37,800 saved every day on fuel, and we're not yet talking about tolls. (See savings on quiz and toll.)

Do the easy say, carpooling as an efficient one you make it. The Alabang 1 coordinators cannot stress that enough. Traveling 19 kilometers a day can demand much from a student who spends a full day in school. Why drive when you can have a free ride?

Besides, as the daily stress-reducer could make more: "You all enjoy By-Some-Or-Pool."

With Divine Mendiola

(Ruby Perez is a sophomore taking up BS Management at the Ateneo de Manila University in Loyola Heights, Quezon City.)

Across the NATION

Panlilio foes absent in unity rally

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—THE PRAYER RALLY for Peace and Unity in Pampanga drew in some 5,000 people on Friday night but despite that good showing, civil society leaders who organized the event felt disappointed because many of the province's elected officials skipped the gathering.

Only Gov. Eddie Panlilio, San Fernando Mayor Oscar Rodriguez and Vice Mayor Edwin Santiago, Angeles City Vice Mayor Vicky Vega and about a dozen councilors and barangay captains came to the four-hour rally at the capitol grounds.

Speaking on the absence of many public officials, Fr. Norman Lumantas, dean of the Pampanga prayer Coalition Inc. told reporters: "It's sad and at that same time, what a pity. This is an opportunity to pray together, gather to gather for the good of Pampanga."

Trouble

Lumantas did not rush to call the absences of their congressmen. Five—Gov. Panlilio, 15 provincial board members, 20 mayors and the rest of Pampanga officialdom—have all been placed under a hold departure order.

"I see that they are not yet of goodwill. I hope they and Governor Panlilio will clarify their differences, heal their hurts. It should not continue to be standoff or face off," the priest said.

He was quick to note that their "non-attendance does not mean that is a failure."

"Civil society—religious groups, development organizations, people's organizations, businessmen—has spoken as you saw here. We've taken the initiative to demand good governance and responsible citizenship. The women Pampanga is more set and we're said that we'll have," he added.

Rodriguez, a member of Lakas-CMD, said there was no reason for him not to show up.

"This is a prayer rally and to my mind, nothing is controversial in this. I am sad that my fellow mayors are not here. I'm giving them the benefit of the doubt. Jon why they did not come."

Other commitments

Some officials said they did not come due to previous commitments, family schedules or the invitation reached them late.

In the rally, priests, pastors, lay people and several leaders, were not heard criticizing the officials who were absent or were at odds with Panlilio, a Catholic priest who defeated pro-administration candidates in the province.

They led the crowd in deep prayer as they reflected on the theme "Kapanampangan: Called and Sent to Mission for Healing and Radical Change in Governance."

A local chorus of "Imeru!" and a sea of raised hands filled the capitol grounds before Bishop Roberto Mallari and the pastors prayed over the local officials.

The "Imeru!" is when people on thanksgiving for what Pastor Joy Rogers, vision keeper of the Pampanga Christian Ministries Council, called the "miracle of the unity of churches in Pampanga."

Bishop's message

San Fernando Archbishop Pedrito Antonio sent a message urging the people to "go into a personal conversion and be concerned for the poor."

He reminded local officials of their "social contract" with the people.

Antonio congratulated Panlilio for being chosen as the Inquirer's Filipino of the Year for 2007, sending him to "serve God and people well."

Bishop Pablo Virgilio David said "there must be a reason why God has resurrected people power in Pampanga, which is now regarded as a role model to many people in the Philippines."

The province, he said, is where the "path of national renewal" is taking place.

Panlilio told the crowd: "It would be unfair if you think that what Peng (Lozano) and I, your board members and mayors did to the last six months was fight. We had differences but we managed to put some reforms in place."

He referred to the operation of the Pampanga Development Corp., the government of reflorestation in quarry industry, delivery of basic services and passage of the 2008 budget.

"We had hope not because of us but because we in the capitol and you in the civil society toiled diligently together for a people," he said. —Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon

SINAGYANG TRAFFIC

Traffic ground to a halt in the streets of Iloilo City for no one seemed to mind as the city celebrated its 48th Dinagyang Festival, one of the most popular feasts in the country.

Manero townmates say he's forgiven

TULUNAN, NORTH COTABATO—Townmates of priest killer Rodrigo Manero Jr. said they have forgiven the former for his past offenses against them.

Fr. Prof. Ulama Akad, chief of staff of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and a neighbor of the Manero family here, said the residents of Manero's home have already learned to move forward.

Another resident said the time that Manero spent in prison could have changed him.

The resident, who requested anonymity because he didn't want to be tagged as pro-Manero, said even Tuvali's office, the Peninsular Institute for Foreign Ministers, has already forgiven the former parish deputy leader.

Lolita Arjelo, 65, another resident, said Manero had already suffered for a crime he did not actually commit.

Angelo Jamir, 40, said Manero participating in the murder of Tuvali.

"It was his brothers Elpidio and Edelberto...," the said, pointing to a spot where the priest was murdered. Noel Mendoza and Aquiles Dano, Inquirer Mindanao

Early probe result in shipyard blast: It's an accident

By Tonette Orejas
and Norman Jumpoin
Inquirer Central Luzon

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT ZONE—Twas an accident. This was the initial finding of the investigation of Friday's explosion that rocked the Hanjin shipyard in Subic, Zambales. Two workers were killed and three others were hurt in the blast.

The finding, released by the Hanjin Heavy Industries & Construction Co., Ltd., raised the explosion as a leak in the valve of an oxygen hose.

"The leak caused the engine shop to be filled with oxygen. Outside was a propeller which was near a lubricant. As workers grinded that (propeller), the sparks ignited the oxygen," Armand Arwas, administrator of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority said, quoting the Hanjin investigation report.

Asked who was accountable for the death and injuries, Arwas said: "It really was an accidental accident."

"The plant has some 5,000 workers and there are lots of equipments and heavy materials being moved there. What is important is for workers to be aware of the potential occupational and health hazards and report these," he said.

He said the BSBM investigation would continue to validate Hanjin's initial findings and see other possible causes.

BSBM Chair Felicisimo Salonga went to Hanjin's plant off the coast of Redondo Bay in Subic to begin the investigation.

The Korean-owned company has posted three accidents in its work site in less than a month.

Spare Tesda, sack chief, workers urge Palace execs

By David Israel Sinay
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—THE TECHNICAL Education Skills Development Authority (Tesda) should not be abolished because of an official's "failings."

Some Tesda employees, led by Jaimelberg Malaya of Anglo-Malaya group forward by Tesda president Annie Gerson, said that abolishing Tesda would not do the public any good.

"Our legislators should banish (Tesda director general Augusto) Syjuco, not Tesda. The whole agency does not deserve to lose one man's failings," Gerson said in a statement facsimiled to the Inquirer.

When reached by the Inquirer through his mobile phone, Syjuco refused to comment.

Timely bill

Gerson's statement came after Sen. Jose "Joggy" Estrada said that a bill that he proposed that seeks to transfer the functions and assets of Tesda to the Department of Trade and Industry has become relevant amid allegations of corruption at Tesda.

Estrada claimed that Tesda has failed to develop the technical and vocational skills of workers required in making the country attractive to foreign investments despite a substantial budget "due to its wrong priorities brought about by its lack of immersion with local trade and industries."

But Gerson insisted that Syjuco had just toed Tesda's for his political interests.

Charges

Syjuco, a former second district congressman of Iloilo, has been charged with grave misconduct by the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) for allegedly using P9.2 million of Tesda funds to fund the printing of 250,000 copies of his book, "Sadabar for the Soul," without public bidding two years ago.

Syjuco, for the past three years, District has only brought shame to Tesda. This is because he has merely used the agency as a tool to further his political and vested interests," Gerson added.

She said the bulk of Tesda's budget is concentrated in the second district of Iloilo where Syjuco served as former congressman "and here he spends excessively on publicity even meant to maximize profile and (his) ephemeral [Press Secretary] Ignacio Bunye."

Syjuco's aide, Andy, explained him as congressman in Iloilo's second district.

PAGC hailed

Lucy Gadong, past president of the Tesda Employees Association of Concerned Employees (Tesda-Iloilo), claimed that Senior "feels worst person ever appointed" at Tesda head.

"Not only is he known for his corruptions and excessive spending, workers in Tesda also know him for a senior Tesda official's favoritism because of his sexual preferences," Gadong added.

Gonzalo Marzan Jr., Tesda-Iloilo Employees and first president, also said Syjuco's claim that he has the support of Tesda employees is false.

"Tesda and the employees of Tesda nationwide are rejoicing over the existence of the decision by the PAGC. (Syjuco) is just trying to make an impression that he is supported by the workers but he is not," Marzan added.

Gerson, Gadong and Marzan were among those who were transferred from the Tesda central office to new places of assignment, and eventually, dropped from the agency's payroll after the minister used Syjuco for corruption.

Gadgets for more weather data launched

PAGASA PROJECT

LEGAZPI CITY—THE DEPARTment of Science and Technology relaunched one of the country's lost P38 million devices to help the department predict weather more accurately by gathering data from the atmosphere.

Science and Technology Secretary Estrella Alabastro said the pieces of equipment will help the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, Astronomical Service Administration (Pagasa) get accurate weather data even in extreme conditions.

The new pieces of equipment, actually big balloons with a data gathering device attached to it, could help the flood region prepare for typhoons and other calamities.

The Bicol peninsula is within the country's typhoon belt with Catanduanes province, which faces the Pacific Ocean in the east, as a typhoon gateway.

Prisco Nilo, national director of the Pagasa, said the new pieces of equipment will complement data gathered by radars and satellites.

He said the country's existing 30 local weather stations in addition only gather ground level information while radars and satellites only get limited information from the air.

"We also need data on what's going on in the upper levels of the atmosphere," Nilo said.

He said since the device helps gather data on wind speed, it is helpful in forecasting the direction of ash fall during volcanic eruptions as in the case of Mt. Mayon in Albay which last erupted in the third quarter of 2006.

The researchers of the upper air data receiving equipment in a small device attached to a big balloon, which will be launched into the air daily to gather real-time information from an altitude of up to 12 km.

At least one transmitter will be launched everyday and four during typhoons at a cost of P30,000 per launch.

Estrella said the upper-air transmitter gathers data on relative humidity, wind intensity and velocity, temperature, pressure, and other data.

The data gathered is immediately sent to a computer system in local and central weather stations.

Albay Gov. Joey Salceda, who witnessed the relaunch of the pieces of equipment, said the balloons would help in mapping out preparations for future typhoons.

SCIENCE and Technology Secretary Estrella Alabastro and Albay Gov. Joey Salceda release a device that will collect upper-air data revealing equipment at the Pagasa office in Legazpi City.

INQUIRER Mindanao

Once an impregnable natural fortress, Lantad is now linked to the rest of the world by a 21-kilometer road and solar power

A SOLAR panel has been installed in the central plaza of Sitio Lantad. JAMES KONSTANTINO

Get the global advantage
FREE SEMINARS
CLASS SCHEDULES
ICSEC
The Test Prep you'll ever need.
KAPLAN
TEST PREP AND ADMISSIONS
KAPLAN COURSES
ICSEC COURSES
TRAINING PROGRAMS

Government rebuilds from once Red area

MEDICard - Armed Forces & Police Mutual Benefit Association, Inc.
MOA - Signing

ARMED FORCES & POLICE MUTUAL BENEFIT ASSOCIATION INC. (AFPMBAI) signed its landmark agreement with MEDICARD Philippines, Limited Liability Partnership (MEDICARD) on January 14, 2008 at the AFPMBAI Building, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Present during the signing ceremony were (seated, from left) Mr. Henry S. Bonoan (President and CEO, MEDICARD), Lt. Gen. Alfredo Lim (Ret.) (President and Chairman, AFPMBAI), Lt. Gen. Hermogenes C. Esperon, Jr. (Chairman, MEDICARD) and Director Avelino V. Razon, Jr. (Chairman, AFPMBAI). Also present were (standing, from left) Mr. Ricardo Manapat (Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, MEDICARD), Mr. Ramon Ang (President and Chief Operating Officer, San Miguel Corporation), Mr. Ricardo Nicanor Jacinto (Chairman, MEDICARD),

"Sa trabaho ko, kontento nako... na two years nakabili nalco ng sasakyan!"

Reggie Bolisten
Warehouse / Packing staff
Fortune Cross Philippines, Inc.

"Ako na ngayon ang nagbibigay ng pera sa magulang ko... ramdam ko ang success!"

August Casanova
Mechanic C

"Kumikita rin naman ako sa pandaigdig sa panibili ng gamot..."

Emilia Jones Reyes
Mother of ex-OFW / San Juan Store Owner

"Dahil sa training ko sa TESDA madali akong nakahanap ng trabaho... nakakaipon ako...."

Alexander Serios
Welder

"Nakatutok sakin ang government, para umunlad ang aking kabuhayan."

Bb Bautista
President
Bautista Food International Inc.

"Marami ako nabibili, na hindi ko nabibili noon..."

Marlo Mago
Project Manager / IT
Excel Global

"Ilang taon na 'kong seaman eto panlis nanaman ako... nakaipon ako, napag-aral ko pa mga pamangkin ko sa probinsiya."

Jaime Dimla
Seaman

"Nakabili ako ng truck pambiyahe ko...nakabili ako ng van para sa pamilya ko."

Mauro Fuentevo
Tarlac
San Ildefonso, Bulacan

SA PITONG TAON NA NAKALIPAS, RAMDAM NATIN ANG PAG-ASENSO!

Fischer's first Pinoy friend: He was very special

By Artemio T. Engracia Jr.

FLORENCIO CAMPOMANES, the country's chess pioneer and former president of the International Chess Federation (Fide), was Bobby Fischer's original Filipino friend.

They met in New York in the mid-1950s when Fischer was emerging as a chess phenom himself while Campomanes, a businessman, was chasing bronze New York and Washington DC while working for a prime commercial bank.

"I didn't see much if he attended the first time we met. He was very young, maybe 12 or 13," Campomanes recalled. Campomanes said he was visiting the Brooklyn Chess Club when Fischer, a prodigy, was the active summer prominent there. A very promising but very modest boy named Robert Fischer.

A few years later, they met again. Campomanes was in Toronto with the 19-year-old Rodolfo Tan Cardoso, then the Philippine junior champion, for the world junior chess championship. And, after the tournament, they went to New York to arrange a match with Fischer, who had become the American junior champion at 14. Needless to say, Fischer beat Cardoso, but not before the Filipino youngster eked out one and a half points from the American. (Some accounts pegged the score at 6.5-2.)

First trip to RP

Fischer's friendship with Campomanes blossomed in the next couple of decades. In 1967, Fischer, stifled out of the 1967 International chess tournament, part of the long disturbance series that would pick a challenger for the world champion in a dispute over his observance of the Sabbath. Campomanes took the occasion to invite Fischer to the Philippines.

He readily accepted and made his first trip to the Philippines to play in what was aptly called the Brat Bobby Fischer Series against the likes of Cardoso, former Navotas and Rotarola Balitao, three of the first four Filipinos to achieve the rank of international master. Rogelio Torre, before he became Asia's first grandmaster, was the third Filipino to become an IM.

Fischer made a grand total of $2,000 from that series, which was sponsored by Marsilio, chit of the place, he used to give Campomanes, then-chess organizer, a few hundred dollars as remuneration. Campomanes refused to take it, but that gesture, duplicated many times after that, made Fischer very special to Campomanes.

CAMPOMANES: Filipino ace years trying to get him back to play

Return to Manila

"Every time, Bobby Fischer was very fair," Campomanes said. "That made him a very special friend of person."

Up to that time, it was five-on, by foreign trip that Fischer had taken after winning the world championship, according to Gerry "Tim" Almeda, then a protégé of Campomanes who would later become secretary general of the International Chess Federation. Almeda said that when foreign chess writers asked him why he chose to travel only to Manila, Fischer replied:

"I was born in 1967 when I was not yet the world champion, but they trained me like one."

Campomanes, with a tinge of sadness, recalled that the last time he saw and talked to Fischer was in October 1981, when Campomanes gave up hope of ever bringing Fischer back to active competition.

"It was in San Francisco. I had spent six years trying to get him back to play. When I finally gave up, we shook hands and I said goodbye. That was it," Campomanes said.

At the time, Fischer owed Campomanes $2,000. Campomanes said he had given up hope of collecting the money but he got the surprise of his life when he received the payment two years ago—a quarter of a century later.

"It just goes to show that Bobby Fischer was a very honest man," Campomanes said.

Treated like a champ

Almeda, who was a young chess player living in Manila when Fischer was here, said Fischer was treated like a champ.

"Every time, Bobby Fischer was very fair," Campomanes said. "That made him a very special friend of person."

Why Bobby Fischer loved RP, Pinoys

From page A1

before he went on exile to Iceland.

Fischer's certified Filipino heir, 7-year-old Jinky, was born in 2002 at the Saint Louis University Xavier Heart Hospital here.

The girl's birth certificate bears the name "Robert James Fischer" as her father, but she kept her mother's maiden name, "Young."

The 6-foot-tall Fischer used to consume huge servings of Filipino food and adored sipping *tuba* (coconut sap liquor) when he lived here for almost two years, said Marilin Terre, wife of Filipino grandmaster Eugene Torre.

Marilin said Fischer used to consume beer before Cinderella (hard eggs) in one sitting every day, years before he shrunked to stay in Baguio.

Fischer asked Marilin to bring him 50 such eggs when she went to Yugoslavia with her husband for Fischer's rematch with Spassky. Eugene served as Fischer's second in the match.

Eugene, Asia's first grandmaster who had studied the American in his own era as the top of Philippine chess, became Fischer's friend in 1967 and was one of the few people he trusted until his death.

American icon

The man became an iconoclast soon for defeating Soviet grandmaster Boris Spassky at the height of the Cold War and again in a highly publicized rematch in Yugoslavia in 1992 that forced him to renounce his American citizenship.

The American government sanctioned Fischer for playing in Yugoslavia in violation of the United Nations embargo imposed on Serb leader Slobodan Milosevic who honored war in the Balkans.

Fischer became more notorious when he gave bizarre speeches and interviews over various radio stations around the world that depicted the United States as an evil nation run by a Jewish conspiracy.

But the man who styled himself as a modern deserter earlier made the American flash Bagnio his home between 2000 and 2002 after he renounced his American citizenship, Inc. Filipino friends have said on Saturday.

Bagnio was the site of the world chess championship between Anatoly Karpov and Victor Korchnoi in 1978.

Nomadic life

Fischer lived a nomadic life, pursued by what he described as a cabal of Jews that controls the world, so he only entertained a small circle of friends like Torre when he decided to stay in the Philippines, says Leonidas "Leo" Bautista, a close friend of another chess master who renounced Campomanes.

But despite his reputation, Fischer kept a normal home with Marilin Young in the city, according to Young's friend, Marilin Terre.

A top executive of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) hosted Fischer at the country club for three months in 2000.

Jimmy Tangalin, 40, a genial casual house coach at the club, supervised Fischer for a while, and found the man "kind and great singing."

"It was Eugene who introduced me to Fischer. I knew about (Fischer's) celebrity status. But it was still a pleasant surprise. We just met, but he immediately opened up a conversation about Jews and the CIA. There was somebody very paranoid for me," Tangalin said.

Fischer leased a home in the compound owned by former Bagnio Councilor Cleto Novada whose the Terre family used to stay.

Elements of Fischer's bizarre reputation cropped up from time to time, Marilin said. "When he showered, he didn't use any shampoo. He preferred to wash with just water and soap. He brushed his teeth without toothpaste."

Bagnio as sanctuary

Why he decided to make "a former American enemy and city" his home for a while still confounds his friends.

Bautista said Campomanes had a hand in bringing Fischer to the country back in the 1970s at the height of martial law.

After that, Fischer became an occasional visitor to the Philippines.

He was a close friend of New York-based Filipino artist Isabel Hizon whom he sometimes accompanied to the country's whenever she commuted to a visit, Marilin related.

But he began to frequent Bagnio when he became close to Terre, Bautista said.

Bautista said his first meeting with Fischer gave him some hospital as to why Bagnio was the American's sanctuary.

"We don't recognize him. He wears a hat, for the older generation, we remember him as clean-shaven as we would not recognize him if he approached you. He had a beard and was balding. But when Eugene introduced us, he was so comfortable."

"Fischer lives in his own world," he added, and being incognito-ized would with a consistency where people minded their own business.

Bautista said the old Bagnio citizen developed this habit because residents were used to Caucasians who lived in the city.

"That's what Bobby loved about Bagnio," he said.

Stayed connected

Fischer never lost his connection to the city. When he was arrested by the Japanese authorities in July 2004 for holding an expired US passport, his whispered friends in Bagnio.

Marilin Terre said Marilyn Young, then already based in Davao, kept in close touch with Fischer even after another friend, Miyoko Watai, publicly declared that she would marry the controversial celebrity to keep him out of Japanese prison.

MARILIN TORRE, wife of Filipino grandmaster Eugene Torre, holds a chalkboard portrait showing her family connection to Bagnio, that of her husband and Bobby Fischer. Also appearing there is a testament to Fischer's two-year stay in Bagnio where he fathered a child.

Sto. Niño fest traces image's journey from Mexico to Manila

From page A1

my kids and I remain healthy and safe always," said Parreno.

Cebu, a shrine of Sto. Niño, is the venue to the Child Jesus began when she was a teenager.

A fishing vessel was converted into a pagoda that hosted the holy image of the Sto. Niño. It was owned by 20 famous businessmen with flowers and colorful sailboats.

Security measures

The fluvial procession, which began at 1:30 p.m., navigated the eastern coastal area of the mouth of Manila Bay, and headed northward in the Pasig. Runners composed arrest from Navotsy Municipality in Pier 18.

Although hundreds of devotees earlier hoped they could ride on the float carrying the image, only 100 people were given boarding passes by the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) to ensure there would be no overloading.

Other divisions, holding images of the Holy Child, waited along the coastal stretch of Manila Bay to get a glimpse of the vessel bearing the Sto. Niño.

As part of the security measures, a team of divers from the PCG likewise accompanied the pagoda while the vessel waits at Navotsy's floating dock at 3 p.m.

Close to the Filipino

"Through our celebrations of the feast of Sto. Niño, we hope to revive the childlikeness of the Filipino faithful," said Fr. Erick Santos of the Sto. Niño parish.

"This is a special occasion because according to a survey, the Child Jesus is the image of our Lord which most Filipinos can relate to," he added.

The parish in Tondo houses the image of the Sto. Niño—carved from ivory—that was brought to the country by augustinian priests from Acapulco, Mexico, in the late 1570s.

The Philippine image to which the Sto. Niño can be traced back to 1521 when Portuguese navigator Ferdinand Magellan landed in Cebu and presented the image as a gift to Queen Juana and King Humabon.

When the Spaniards returned to the islands in 1565, they found the icon still intact and being venerated by the people.

600 Sto. Niños

Proof that the Sto. Niño is venerated by both rich and poor is the 600 plaster Sto. Niño exhibit, which opened on Jan. 17 at the Philippine National Bank on Dasmariñas Binondo Boulevard in Pasay City.

Organized by members of the Congregacion del Santisimo Nombre del Niño Jesus, the exhibit, which is open to the public, runs until Jan. 26.

According to Ruby Miranda, current president of the Congregation, the images of the Holy Child of the Child Jesus on exhibit are owned by the members.

The Congregation's grand procession of the Sto. Niño on the last Sunday of January usually caps the month's festivities which pay tribute to the Holy Child. Other celebrations like dance at the Sto. Niño parish in Tondo, and Cebu's Sinulog festival are usually held on the Third Sunday of January.

The exhibit not only pays tribute to the Sto. Niño's rich history in the Philippines but it also reflects the Filipinos' close relationship with the Infant Jesus.

Beginnings

The Congregacion del Santisimo Nombre del Niño Jesus was launched by fashion designer Ben Farolan in 1979.

Farolan said they started a small group of Sto. Niño devotees who prayed more than to the Child Jesus every Monday. Later, they started organizing projects to spread the faith.

Apart from Farolan, members include Mia director Mel Chionglo and socialite Imelda Cojuangco.

"Since] nanay pasabog para barkada na lang. Pero can't always just go out with friends). This is a different interest and the is spiritual good," said Farolan, who has designed clothes for decades for Manila's elite.

Before long, the small congregation became a moving force behind an annual exhibit featuring hundreds of images of the Holy Child and the mounting of a grand procession of the images along Roxas Boulevard in January.

"We owe it to the people because they want to see all those Niños," Farolan said.

The exhibit

Greeting viewers at the entrance of the exhibit are four Sto. Niño images from Farolan' own collection. It includes his Sto. Niño-in-Glass, a Child Jesus image encased in glass around which he bought in Rome.

Compared to other richly adorned Niños, Farolan' images are almost bare, dressed only in golden trim belts, showing off the antique wood from which they were carved.

Also part of the collection are these Sto. Niño images owned by Imelda Cojuangco. Exquisite-looking, although no bigger than a hand, they are among the smallest in the entire collection.

In contrast, Mel Chionglo's five-foot Sto. Niño Bhajanal de Obeconsinegro, is literally a standout.

Homegrown

While most of the Niños on display were sourced from different countries, some look homegrown. One image is dressed as a fish vendor with an apron and fish net. Another is dressed as a farmer holding a plow.

Other icon owners dressed up their Niños based on their aspirations in life. One image is wearing a laborista's jewels, complete with robes and epitomized Sto. Niño, the Good Chemist.

Others opted to fashion their Niños according to their type of business. One of the displays, the Sto.Niño del Vitamores, shows the little Child working on a sewing machine and accompanied by angels as his sewing assistants.

Other images describe the variety of cultures that the holy Child has influenced through years of fervent devotion.

One of the images on display the Sto. Niño de Nuestros, is clad in a green Japanese kimono, while another, the Latin Child Niño del Himamad, is dressed in a yellow Middle Eastern-inspired robe.

DESIGNER DEVOTEE: Founding chair coordinator Ben Farolan of the Congregacion del Santisimo Nombre del Niño Jesus: 'The most important thing is the faith, for it (or be very strong. Now we exhibit at the Philippine National Bank on Dasmariñas Binondo Boulevard are images of the Child Jesus belonging to the Congregacion members. Exhibit runs until Jan. 26.

Loren's loss in election protest is GMA's gain

From page A1

enough that they cheated and that my case was dismissed because I can't put up the money. But I'm a public servant and what you have degraded the Filipino people, that is a grave travesty of justice," she said.

Leganda, the running mate of the late actress Ana Fernandez in 2001, refused to accept the PET's dismissal of her electoral protest for insufficient evidence.

She said she would console only that it was found to be illuminated on a "technicality" because the area is a six-year freeze zone last year and that they could not put up the P3.9 million fee for a recount.

"The ghosts of [alleged electoral fraud in] 2004 will continue to haunt Noli until 2010," Leganda said.

"I accept the dismissal of my electoral protest in so far as I have already been validated as a senator and for my failure to put up the required amount to pursue the case. But I can't accept that the case was dismissed because of lack of evidence," she said.

'Clear affirmation'

Macalintal said that since the questioned ballots, election returns (ERs) and certificate of canvass (CoCs) for the vice presidential election were the same ones used in the presidential election, the PET's decision was "a clear affirmation that President Macapagal-Arroyo was lawfully proclaimed by Congress as the duly elected president in the May 10, 2004, elections."

He said he had made this declaration "on the basis of genuine and duly executed [ERs] and [CoCs]."

Macalintal also said there was no presiding election protest against Mr Arroyo because the same tribunal had earlier dismissed the one lodged by Poe against her after his death in December 2004.

'Nonsense'

Senator Miriam D. Lodes Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said Macalintal was talking "nonsense" because the PET's dismissal did not screen the allegations against Mr Arroyo's victory.

"In fact, we asked from the PET if, in the protest of Loren, we could also look into and tabulate the votes of FPJ (Poe). Macalintal opposed it, and the PET refused to look into the protest because it was time-barred," said Escudero, who served as Poe's spokesperson during the election.

Leganda pointed out that she had fixed her electoral protest on the disparity in the number of the Lenten del Sur ERs held by Congress, against the six other official copies held by the Commission on Elections and other concerned parties.

"If that is not evidence of fraud, then what is?" she said.

Leganda said she would "like it" like a motion for reconsideration to question the part of the PET decision finding insufficient evidence of fraud.

She said that while her case was aimed only at questioning De Castro's win, Ms Arroyo also cheated in the election.

"Noli is a beneficiary of the fraud of the administration. I am sure he didn't do it alone. The perpetrators and the beneficiaries must all be held accountable," she said, adding:

"We can't say that the administration officials including Noli is [a] legitimate [senator], and that all the time we have no evidence for saying there was fraud. So, to say that [the Filipino people] are deaf, dumb and blind," she said.

Leganda also said she still felt like a winner despite the PET's ruling.

"I feel I've emerged victorious. My topping the senatorial elections [last May] is the greatest vindication of them all."

Genuine and authentic

Macalintal said that when the PET ruled that the election documents were genuine and valid, it based for the proclamation of De Castro, "it goes without saying that [the PET] also declared for the proclamation of President Arroyo were likewise genuine, authentic and duly executed."

Clad in a black dress, Ms Arroyo calmly exited back to Malacañang Palace from Tagaytay, where she had inspected the Southern Tagalog arterial road rollmap project and entertained pool reporters, just to receive from Macalintal the original copy of the PET decision.

Ms Arroyo quickly convened press conference, Ms Arroyo congratulated Macalintal, smiled at reporters and quickly disappeared through a side door in Malacañan Hall.

Macalintal reported to Ms Arroyo that in the resolution written by Senior Associate Justice Leonardo Quisumbing, the PET also found out that there was no "break in and switching" of returns in the House of Representatives.

He said that considering that both the presidential and vice presidential contests in May 2004 used the same ballots, "the presidents of the Philippines in 2004 was also based on the same [ERs]."

"For this reason, I would say with a clear conviction that the legitimacy issue against your administration [has been] put to rest and ... terminated," Macalintal said.

He presented the document to Ms Arroyo and thanked her for her "trust and confidence."

Asked by reporters if the PET has finally settled the legitimacy issue, Macalintal said it was English translation of the unanimous ruling that Leganda had failed to "sufficiently prove that there was widespread cheating."

He said that because of the decision of the PET—"the very agency with the sole jurisdiction to determine any electoral protest against the President"—he could now say with certainty that the issue of legitimacy of the present administration should be put to rest."

He also recalled the opposition claim that the supposed break in at the House was in fact "just one" in its efforts to "get some answers to questions on the alleged cheating and anomaly in the 2004 elections."

'No way'

Other opposition senators exhorted Macalintal for his claim, saying that Ms Arroyo's electoral victory over Poe remained questionable.

Said Sen. Nicolás Lacson, also a presidential candidate in 2004: "No way. Only when the 'Hello Garci' tape controversy is resolved and brought to its logical conclusion will the legitimacy [issue] of [the Arroyo] presidency be put to rest."

The Senate last year revived the inquiry into the "Hello Garci" wiretapping scandal, after Lacson presented ex-military intelligence agent Vidal Doble.

Doble had testified that he, with his superior/ access, tapped Ms Arroyo's conversations with then elections commissioner Virgilio Garcillano at the height of the votes-counting.

Lacson said the Palace itself was responsible for not putting closure to the "Hello Garci" scandal because of its refusal to allow government and military officials to attend the Senate hearings.

"The systematic and blatant cheating unparalleled in the country's electoral history remains etched in our memory. I doubt if any sane Filipino will buy [Macalintal's] line. The jury simply wants to vote once," Lacson said. "Pero sa tips, tingnan ko pero with him in bring up about classified order's directions in 2000 by pushing for the modernization of the Comelec.

De Castro stressed that he was not calling for a political alliance, or that they would campaign for each other again in rivals in the 2004 presidential race.

He said other possible presidential candidates should also work together to make sure that the Comelec would be cleansed. With a report from Cynthia D. Balana

Blogger can hardly wait; starts countdown to 2010

From page A1

a Bangkok-based Filipino journalist and press freedom advocate, last Dec. 1.

The blog site (http://angryglutinous.blogspot.com) features a clock ticking off the days, hours, minutes and seconds left till 12 noon of June 30, 2010, the end of Ms Arroyo's six-year term.

Alampay said he conceived of the blog during online conversations with his friends a few days after the Nov. 29, 2004, occupation of the Philippine Manila Bond by Magdalo soldiers and their civilian sympathizers. The Makati revolt was led by Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV who wanted to force Ms Arroyo out of office.

Claiming he was not a Trillanes fan, Alampay said the pained, sensitive "unfortunately represents extreme widespread discontent and impatience" with the current Chief Executive.

Statement of fact

"I don't have a target [audience]. I just emailed some friends to have a good laugh. Obviously the [blog] is critical of Ms Arroyo, but it's also meant to simply be a statement of fact that June 30, 2010, is a long way off," Alampay told the Inquirer via e-mail.

Alampay is the executive director of the Southeast Asian Press Association, which has criticized the Arroyo administration for political killings, human rights violations and unduly set press freedom in the Philippines.

Today marks the seventh anniversary of Ms Arroyo coming to power.

Seven years ago, Ms Arroyo, who was then Vice President, became the country's leader following the Edsa II people power revolt that ousted President Joseph Estrada in 2001.

Ms Arroyo served out Estrada's remaining term of three years and then ran for re-election in May 2004 and won. If she completes her term in 2010, she would have served a total of 10 years, making her the country's longest-serving leader since the late dictator President Ferdinand Marcos.

However, scandalous that she energized with an election official to cheat in the 2004 polls resulted in questions about her legitimacy and led to several unsuccessful, unconstitutional and extra-constitutional attempts (such as Trillanes' second and latest foray) to remove her from office.

Impatience, frustration

According to Alampay, the blog expresses impatience, frustration and resentment—what most Filipinos are feeling.

As of 5 p.m. yesterday, Ms Arroyo had 922 days and six hours remaining in her term. The blog has logged close to 8,000 hits.

Alampay said he and two friends who helped him set up the blog enjoyed reading the comments that came in after the site was put up.

"The exchanges on the nine 8,000-page were very passionate, heated... The majority just wanted to say they would empathize with the sentiment [of] frustration," he said.

However, whether or not the blog's comments do not reach "hello viewers" into counting down to zero, there is reflect on what they could do until then, is entirely up to them," Alampay said.

"THE ULTIMATE END" is the question on President Arroyo's legitimacy, that's how the Palace describes the junking of Sen. Loren Legarda's electoral protest against Vice President Noli de Castro. In reaction official, President Arroyo receives from her lawyer, Romulo Macalintal, copies of the decision of the Presidential Electoral Tribunal on Saturday. PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Fil-Am, Asian vote crucial in Nevada caucuses

From page A1

ties' presidential nominees. Altogether, the caucuses will determine the delegates hand to the Democratic convention in Denver in August, and for the Republicans' there in Minneapolis in September.

In theory the candidate who emerges the strongest in this series of caucuses and primaries will get the needed momentum going into Super Tuesday on Feb. 5, when two dozen states and territories hold he/she deciding votes for the presidential nominees.

1st caucus in West Coast

Nevada is the first caucus in the US west coast and is considered for the highest Pacific Islander population and the sixth for the highest Asian American population in the country and first Hispa, an AP/After board members.

The Nevada caucus will have a significant impact on how AAPIs will vote, said Kulpa.

"AAPIs from across the US, particularly AAPIs in the West, will be watching," she said.

Lee Cerda, a Filipino-American, said the Asian-American and Pacific Islander groups in Nevada are the fastest growing population in the United States, particularly in Clark County.

"If them proportionable votes, AAPIs will swing the race," she said.

In their bid to woo the minority groups, all three Democratic presidential aspirants—Sen. Hillary Clinton, Sen. Barack Obama and former Sen. John Edwards—have vowed to further push for racial equality. The three took pro-immigrant positions during the Democratic debate at the Craftsman Center in Las Vegas last Tuesday.

Largest subgroup

Filipino-Americans comprise the largest subgroup among Asian-American representing about 4 percent of the population of Clark County, which includes Las Vegas, according to APIAHme.

The 40 percent growth rate of the Asian-American population in the country between 2000 and 2004 was also highest for any ethnic group, AP/Pew said.

Announced by a consortium of minority groups and broadcast on MSNBC, Tuesday's debate which focused on issues important to minority voters, was held four days before the Saturday Nevada caucuses.

It was the first Democratic debate since the New Hampshire primary last week was won by Clinton, resulting a tie between her and Obama. The latter remains reliant. They are looking to break the tie in Nevada on Saturday or the South Carolina primary the following week.

Electoral impact

To prove that Asian-American and Pacific Islanders have electoral impact, AP/After cited statistics showing that in the 2004 election in Nevada, 63 percent of AAPI eligible voters registered on vote and 77 percent of registered voters turned out to vote.

In Clark County, 31,311 AAPIs registered to vote; 28,404 cast ballots, with voter turnout reaching 77 percent.

Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) voter registration has increased dramatically since the early 1990s, according to AP/Pew. Voting research showed that once registered, AAPIs were more likely than mainstream voters to go to the polls on election day it added.

Many AAPIs, including Filipino-Americans, have also been actively campaigning for presidential candidates.

Loida Lewis

Prominent Filipino-American community leader Loida Nicolas Lewis is the New York co-chair for the AAPIs for Hillary steering committee.

Other Filipino-American cochairs include Henry Mayagan, former mayor of Milpitas, California; Mona Pasquil, former deputy political director of constituency outreach for Barry Edwards 2004; and Charmaine Manzanilla, a former activist to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and a former senior policy analyst for the White House Initiative on AAPIs.

Congressman Bobby Scott (Democrat, Virginia), the first American of Filipino extraction to serve in the US Congress and a longtime member of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, has endorsed Obama.

Obama also enjoys the support of many Fil-Am leaders in Illinois, his home state, as well as in Hawaii, where he was born.

Support for vets' bill

Obama, Clinton and Edwards supported the Filipino Veterans Equity Bill calling for full and equal benefits for the Filipino veterans who fought alongside US troops in the Philippines during World War II.

"They were the only presidential candidates who supported the Veterans Equity Bill," said Ben de Guzman, national campaign coordinator for the National Alliance for Filipino Veterans Equity (NaFil).

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'HILOT' OR TOUCH THERAPY

From the *albularyo's* closet and into the 21st century

HILOT TECHNIQUE: Healing via Pinoy way.

By Kristine L. Rikee

HILOT, THE AGE-OLD indigenous Filipino massage and healing practice associated with elderly healers and mysticism, is getting a much needed makeover that would put it on par with other healing techniques found in upscale spa and hotels.

The Association of Traditional Health Aid Givers Inc. (Athag) is at the forefront of the campaign to transform the centuries-old Pinoy version of the massage into one of the country's major tourism products. This group of Filipino healers, herbalists and hilot practitioners have banded together to take the age-old "treatment" out of the shadows of local folklore and into the 21st century.

Uniquely Pinoy

If spa and hotel clients all over the world have become addicted to Thai and Swedish massages, surely the hilot... with its holistic and all-natural approach—has a fighting chance to become part of a wellness regime that is uniquely Filipino.

ATHAG has been going around the country teaching the benefits of a hilot regimen.

For Athag members, hilot is not just a massage technique; it also has many points of comparison with other types of healing practices such as acupuncture, aromatherapy and even Western medicine.

Bibiano "Bey" Fajardo, Athag president, explained that hilot is also a philosophy and a culture. Unlike the other types of massages, it not only relieves stress but also has "a rejuvenating, healing effect" on the person or client.

A good hilot practitioner, he added, would know the type of ailment his client is suffering from just by looking at him and sensing his energy.

Fajardo noted that a good healer can tell if the elements in one's body—fire, water, earth and air—are in harmony. The rebels in the body's electric impulses; water, the blood; the earth, bone and flesh; while air corresponds to the air that one breathes, the Athag president explained.

"If these are not in proportion, the sickness will come back," he said. To correct the imbalance in the patient's energy that leads to a distorted metabolism, a healer would have to give the patient a massage.

Fajardo said that the massage manipulates the body's electrical charges to create the desired biochemical responses that help the body heal itself.

The process may sound esoteric and mystical, but Fajardo said traditional healing practice has something in common with Western medicine. Its reliance on natural ingredients and the belief that the body has enough resources to heal itself. Doctors call this immunotherapy, he said.

Herbal drinks

Massage is just one part of the hilot regimen. The abundance of native medicine men, *hilots* noted, are herbalists, too, so the group has incorporated the use of herbal drinks and supplements in its program.

Athag has already initiated the formulation and processing of herbs and plants such as lagundi, cogon, and *sambong* in some areas in the country.

It then buys the products from local farmers and then processes the "traditionally validated" ingredients into soaps, teas, tea and capsules that are easy and alternate different types of sickness. This way, the group also earns extra income, Fajardo said.

Athag has likewise been getting around the country to reach out to potential healers but local health workers about the benefits of a hilot regimen. "We are not interesting the rebels. We are just promoting it," Fajardo said.

He added that *hilot* practitioners are often surprised to know that their trade has a scientific basis and that makes them "feel empowered."

Local health workers, on the other hand, are encouraged to practice the regimen because it is a more affordable, compared to medicine and treatments prescribed by doctors.

Besides, under Athag's supervision, one also easily grow or get the herbal ingredients they need for their illnesses and discomforts, Fajardo said.

Since hilot has been recognized by the government as one of its major projects for medical tourism, massage therapists from high-end establishments have flocked to Athag to learn the traditional healing techniques.

The organization said it has worked with over 1,500 people since it started a few years ago, with some of the Athag "graduates" now employed in five-star hotels and spas here and abroad.

Fajardo said he has great Athag training to upscale facilities like the Ula Spa, Oriental Spa, Fitness First, Dao Balinese and Hamilton Spa, among others. Customers in these places who ask for a massage using the hilot technique usually pay at least P1,500 per hour, he noted.

Fajardo said they are grateful to the trade department for its active promotion of hilot. The agency he noted, has recognized that the Philippines needs to have its own signature wellness regimen if it wants to become the primary destination for medical tourism. Toward this end, the department has also hosted seminars for healers and herbalists and has actively promoted the hilot regimen to international tourism venues.

'Hilot' curriculum

For students interested in learning the hilot technique, Athag is currently developing a curriculum in cooperation with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority.

Fajardo, meanwhile, dismissed the notion that only those with "inborn" healing powers can become hilot practitioners.

Anyone can learn how to heal nonetheless the national *sing* insisted. "The important thing is to have the passion for it and the determination to succeed," Fajardo said.

Herbal 'cigarette' may help smokers quit

By Peng B. Hernandez
Contributor

THOUGH SCIENCE HAS SHOWN that cigarette smoking kills, many people are unable to kick the habit.

It has been found that nicotine is addicting. Dr. Lynn T. Kozlowski, an addiction expert at Pennsylvania State University, said addiction could generally be defined as "the repeated use of a psychoactive drug which is difficult to stop."

Two indications of addiction are giving up other things for cigarettes and continued use despite knowledge of harm to oneself and others.

Ramon Tan, founder of Control Herbal Health Products Inc. thinks herbal cigarettes may be the solution.

Tan is the maker of the herbal cigarette brands Stop-a-Habit and Herbalo sold in Cotton's main store in Makati City and other outlets nationwide.

He said the products are made from a blend of 36 herbal plants from the Philippines, India, Africa, China and South America.

Nicotine-free

"They have been analyzed and certified by the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory to be free of nicotine and other addicting substances such as marijuana, opium, cocaine and heroin," he added.

Tan started developing the herbal cigarette in 1998 in consultation with some farmers and Indian scientists from the University of Moscow.

He also gives free seminars on herbal cigarette-making in his Makati City office. "People can make money from making herbal cigarettes. There are about 200 herbal plants in the country just waiting to be explored," he said.

THE FINISHED PRODUCT: A cigarette that may help you quit smoking.

According to Tan, apart from reducing and eliminating addictive nicotine enhancer products, herbal cigarettes can also reduce total cholesterol and relieve gastric discomfort and peptic ulcer.

"Our herbal cigarettes are not meant to replace tobacco cigarettes," he cautioned. "They are to be used only temporarily as a means to give up smoking completely."

Tan himself used to be a heavy smoker until a relative died after suffering a stroke which is associated with smoking.

He thought of nicotine-free cigarettes made from dried leaves of *pandan*, tanglad, *talinumpaye*, *pandan*, cocoa and ginger.

Tan said he got the idea from stories of Filipinos making cigarettes out of dried papaya leaves when Japanese forces occupied the country.

"While giving up smoking, I needed something to hold on to during that trying period," he said. "I inhaled an herbal stick and handled them like my regular brand, which gave me the tangible satisfaction of holding a cigarette and smoking it."

He explained that herbal smoke could eliminate the need for nicotine, making it possible to quit smoking. After a few weeks, a smoker should have dropped the habit for good, he added.

Health specialists also do not recommend herbal cigarettes as a long-term alternative to tobacco due to the dangers posed by smoke inhalation.

The Academic Health in Canada warned in its Health Canada website that although some herbal cigarettes do not have nicotine, they still produce tar and carbon monoxide when burned and inhaled.

"It's also important to know that some herbal cigarettes are blended with tobacco, particularly those manufactured in China," it said.

Academy Health has been tracking the use and sales of herbal cigarettes in Canada to determine their safety, efficacy, quality, level of use and changes over time.

Increasing sales

In the United States, herbal cigarettes have been steadily increasing in popularity. In crossing, the Washington Times reported. "Instead of tobacco and nicotine, the cigarettes contain catnip, wild lettuce, damiana, passion flower and marshmallow."

Dr. Anne O'Donnell, associate professor and chief of pulmonary critical care at Georgetown University Hospital, expressed concern that youngsters might use herbal cigarettes as a stepping stone to tobacco.

The Global Youth Tobacco Survey initiated by the World Health Organization revealed that in the Philippines, four out of 10 students aged 13 to 15 years old smoked.

Their reasons for smoking were peer pressure, the perception that smoking was "cool," easy access to tobacco products and the influence of parents who smoked.

About 88 percent of young smokers, however, wanted to quit the habit and even supported the ban on smoking in public places, the report said.

Another WHO survey said the country had the highest rate of female smokers among young adults and adults in the Asia-Pacific region.

Filipino women reportedly turned to smoking as "a substitute for expressing feelings," particularly anger and unhappiness. A cigarette served as a crutch in a stressful situation, the survey pointed out.

Most female smokers in urban areas think smoking can be an image booster, a symbol of glamour, sensuousness and power.

Cell-center environments and culture also contribute to the rising rates of smoking. High levels of stress, fatigue, loss of appetite and irregular or disturbed sleep encourage smoking.

Health Promotion International, a journal published in association with WHO, said among the country's smoking adult population, more than women tried quitting.

Fewer women smokers

Of the country's 85 million people, 58 percent of men and 12 percent of women smoke cigarettes, according to a report from the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control Alliance of the Philippines.

"The point of tobacco shows no signs of disappearing overnight in a puff of smoke. With more deaths to its name than all the illicit narcotics put together, there can be no doubt that tobacco is the most dangerous drug in the world," Richard Rodgley wrote in The Encyclopedia of Psychoactive Substances.

Thus, for experts to advise smokers to kick the habit by using an herbal preparation instead.

THE CIGARETTES are made from the dried leaves of various herbs, including pandan and cotton.

The WORLD

Cito Lorenzo B. Gasco

Israel closes Gaza borders, bombs ministry

JERUSALEM—ISRAEL CLOSED ALL BORDER CROSSINGS with the Gaza Strip on Friday, cutting off at least one aid shipment, and bombed the empty Interior Ministry building of the Palestinian Authority, which was already a ruin from a previous Israeli bombing.

Israel said it was acting to try to halt Palestinian rocket attacks into Israel from Gaza, while Hamas and other Palestinian militants said they had increased their rocket fire in retaliation against intensified Israeli raids.

In the bombing of the empty ministry building, which is in the crowded al-Rimal neighborhood of western Gaza City, one woman, Hanadi Abd al-Jouad, 52, was killed and at many as 46 people were injured by blast and shrapnel, some of them children, according to medical officials at Gaza's al-Shifa hospital.

Israel has declared Gaza, run by Hamas, a "hostile entity" and has tried to convince its leaders to stop rocket fire by reducing supplies of gasoline, diesel fuel and electricity.

The Israeli military has been operating nearly every day inside Gaza, luring Hamas and allied gunmen into firefights, and 21 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza since Monday—10 of them on Tuesday and another five on Thursday—and 80 people wounded, according to Dr. Moawiya Hassanein, director of the emergency medical service in Gaza.

After Tuesday, Hamas removed living Qassam rockets toward the Israeli border town of Sderot, along with other militant groups like Islamic Jihad and Fatah's Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades. On Thursday, at least 43 rockets were launched, half of them landing in Israel, hitting two houses in Sderot and lightly wounding four Israelis, with a dozen more treated for shock.

On Friday, at least 21 more rockets were fired toward Israel and 16 landed, the Israeli army said, but no one was wounded.

Since Tuesday, the army said, 120 Qassams were launched, in general, about half land in Israel and the remainder land in Gaza.

On Friday, in the Jabaliya refugee camp, north of Gaza City, Israel fired a rocket at a car killing a member of the Hamas military wing and another man who Israel said were part of a rocket squad, and Israel also bombed a Hamas police facility in central Gaza.

The Israeli decision to close border crossings is another attempt to pressure Hamas in Gaza, and at least one UN aid shipment was not allowed through on Friday.

The Defense Ministry said that all imports will have to be approved by Defense Minister Ehud Barak and would be limited to "humanitarian supplies" that are judged to be running low, like milk or cooking oil. Israel has already closely restricted imports to Gaza since the Hamas takeover in June. AFP

Report: BA jet's engines failed before landing

LONDON—A BRITISH AIRWAYS JET suffered engine failure before it was forced to make a crash landing at Heathrow airport, a preliminary accident report said Friday.

There 14 minutes before touchdown, the engines on British Airways flight 038 from Beijing to London did not respond for a demand to increase thrust, the report by Britain's Air Accident Investigation Branch said.

"The aircraft speed reduced and the aircraft descended onto the grass short of the paved runway surface," the report said.

Those on board and witnesses at the airport said the Boeing 777's landing gear ripped away before the plane came to a halt on its belly. Nineteen injuries were reported among the 152 people on board.

The captain of the jet paid tribute to his copilot, saying his actions to safely bring down the stricken plane were remarkable.

"Flying is about teamwork, and we had a fantastic team on board," Capt. Peter Burkill told reporters at British Airways' London headquarters, before singling out pilot Senior First Officer John Coward, who was at the controls, for special praise.

Burkill, Coward and the flight's senior flight attendant appeared in front of the media for the first time since the crash landing. Burkill said he was unable to provide further details about the incident until the official inquiry was completed. AP

Illegals hiding in plain sight in US

By Julia Preston

WHEATON, ILL.—SUE IS A HOMEOWNER, a taxpayer, a friendly neighbor and a US citizen. Her immense size is married to an illegal immigrant. Ours days she feels like a fugitive.

Whenever her Mexican husband ventures out of the house, "it makes me sick to my stomach," said the woman, who insisted on being identified only by a first name and last initial, Miriam H.

"You take, 'Oh...my God, he took too long,'" she said. "I'll start calling. I get into panic."

Over the last year, thousands of illegal immigrants and their families who live here have retreated from community life in Pittsburgh, a microcosm of a growing underground of illegal immigrants across the country who are clinging to homes and jobs despite the presence of tougher federal and local enforcement.

From Illinois to Georgia to Arizona, these families are hiding in plain sight, to avoid being detected by immigration agents and deported. They do their shopping in ethnic enclave Front home, avoid parties and do not take vacations. They stay away from schools, hospitals, doctor's visits and meetings at their children's schools, and postpone girls' normally lavish quinceaneras, or 15th birthday parties. They avoid the police, even hesitating to report crimes.

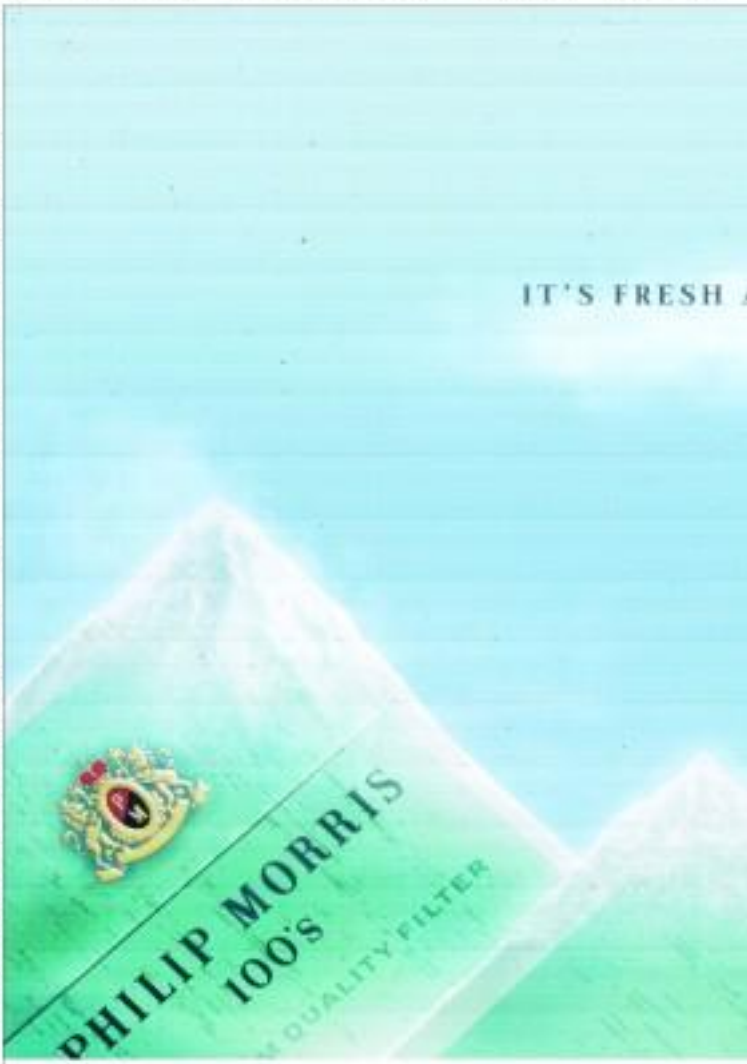
Last year, immigration agents arrested more than 30,000 illegal immigrants, including unauthorized workers and immigration fugitives, more than double the number in 2006. They sent 276,912 immigrants back to their home countries, a record number.

A survey by the Pew Hispanic Center, a nonpartisan research group in Washington, found in December that 53 percent of Hispanics in the United States worry that they or a loved one could be deported.

Stories cowering in Hispanic immigrants in places like Atlanta and Cincinnati have slowed because of the drop in customers.

"The raids have really spooked them in a big way," said Douglas S. Massey, a Princeton demographer who has studied Mexican immigrants for three decades.

Massey said the "palpable sense of fear and of insecurities" in immigrant communities was more intense than at any other time since the mass deportations of Mexican farm workers in 1954. NYT



WOMEN in Russian traditional clothes pose on the stand of Russia on Jan. 28 at the "Grüne Woche" (Green Week) international food and agriculture fair in Berlin. AP

Russia claims victory as UK puts cultural centers on hold

MOSCOW—RUSSIA'S FOREIGN MINISTRY on Friday expressed satisfaction over the decision of the British government to suspend operations at two cultural centers in Russia, even as the British ambassador said that he hoped the centers would reopen after bilateral negotiations.

The remarks by the two sides, which managed to contain elements of conciliatory language and yet drive different considerations of the state of the impasse, suggested that the diplomatic dispute had yet to run its course.

Britain closed on Thursday its cultural operations at the offices of the British Council, the government's cultural arm, in St. Petersburg and Yekaterinburg, citing Soviet-style pressure from the FSB, which is the domestic successor to the KGB.

The offices remained shuttered on Friday, the latest result of the decline in relations between Russia and Britain since the fatal poisoning in 2006 of Alexander V. Litvinenko, a former KGB officer who had moved to Britain and become a harsh critic of Russia's government.

British consequences have accrued another former KGB officer, Andrei K. Lugovoi, of murder in that case and sought his extradition. Russia has refused. After the extradition was rebuffed last year, Lugovoi was elected to Russia's parliament.

Russia's Foreign Ministry, which has insisted that the British Council has no permanent presence outside of Moscow, publicly claimed victory in the latest dispute on Friday.

"The British side has finally done what had to be done a long time ago," Mikhail Kamynin, the spokesperson for the Foreign Ministry, said in a statement.

But in an interview in the British Embassy here, the ambassador, Anthony Brenton, made clear that Britain did not consider the matter closed.

Brenton said many Russian schools, universities and cultural-exchange organizations had expressed dismay to the embassy that the two cultural centers had supported operations. He said Britain planned to press Russia to allow them to resume work.

Brenton also expressed anger over the actions of the FSB, which subjected all of the council's Russian staff members in St. Petersburg and Yekaterinburg to questioning, either after summoning them to FSB offices or by visiting their homes.

"For the Russian agencies to behave in the aggressive and invasive way they have seems to me to be right beyond the pale," Brenton said. "It harks back to a much darker period in Russia's history, which we all had hoped was finished. AFP

WORLDBRIEFS

CIA says militant was behind Bhutto attack

WASHINGTON—The Central Intelligence Agency has concluded that the assassins of the former Pakistani prime minister Benazir Bhutto were directed by Baitullah Mehsud, a Pakistani militant leader in hiding, and that some of them had ties to al Qaeda. The CIA's judgment is the first formal assessment by the US government about who was responsible for Bhutto's Dec. 27 assassination, which took place during a political rally in the garrison city of Rawalpindi. "There are powerful reasons to believe that terror networks around Baitullah Mehsud were responsible," said one American intelligence official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he is not authorized to speak publicly on the matter. The official said that "different pieces of information" have pointed toward Mehsud's responsibility, but he would not provide any details about the information that led to the CIA's conclusion. AFP

Bush proposes $145-billion plan to spur economy

WASHINGTON—President Bush called Friday for $145 billion in tax relief for individuals and businesses that he said would "provide a shot in the arm" for the economy, while congressional Democrats, in a rare show of Washington bipartisanship, pledged to work with him to enact a plan quickly. Bush laid out his ideas for an economic rescue package only in broad strokes, saying the plan would be "built on broad-based tax relief" and "big enough to make a difference in an economy as large and dynamic as ours." He did not use the word recession, but acknowledged "there is a risk of a downturn." His comments, in the Roosevelt Room of the White House, reflected a heightened sense of urgency within the administration and on Capitol Hill about the need to stimulate spending in an economy shaken by higher gas prices and instability in the housing and credit markets. AFP

Bird flu kills Indonesia boy, raises death toll to 97

JAKARTA, Indonesia—An Indonesian boy has died of bird flu, bringing the country's death toll from the disease to 97, the health ministry said Saturday. The 8-year-old boy from the town of Tangerang died early Friday after being treated at the Sulianti Saroso Hospital for infectious diseases in the capital, Jakarta, said Sitorus Pasa, an official at the ministry's bird flu center. He said the boy had been admitted to a local hospital on Wednesday, nine days after he developed symptoms of fever and cough. Pasa said laboratory results confirmed that the boy had the deadly strain of the bird flu virus. Scientists have warned that Indonesia, which has millions of backyard chickens and poor medical facilities, is a potential hot spot for a global bird flu pandemic. AP

No. 3 diplomat in US and negotiator on Iran quits

WASHINGTON—R. Nicholas Burns, the country's third-ranking diplomat and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's right-hand man, is leaving for personal reasons, the State Department said Friday. The White House said that it was nominating William J. Burns, then US ambassador to Russia, to replace him as undersecretary of state for political affairs. The two men are not related. Like R. Nicholas Burns, William Burns is a career foreign service official. He has served as assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, as well as ambassador to Jordan. AFP

AT THE TOP.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

GLOBAL Pinoy

John Gerry Lirio

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20, 2008

"WE CAN only cry with our tears [for the double whammy of decreasing incomes and rising prices]. Yet we feel there is our fortune. But then, praise is cheap."
FELICITO PEÑARIO, January 2008

E-mail: gp_global_pinoy@inquirer.com.ph

This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world, to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

TALES MOTHER NEVER TOLD

The tunnel across the border

'No woman is illegal,' so Aling Prosing dares cross a forbidden path, only to realize later that at the end of the tunnel her gender doesn't matter

By Miner Chito Rocco
Chief Reporter

NEW YORK—She might have taken comfort from Hillary Clinton's January 11th statement in Las Vegas, Nevada, that "no woman is illegal" but Aling Prosing, short for Prosperina, still shudders whenever she has to answer a summon.

She remembers abruptly one black evening when she crossed from Mexico to the US, a week after leaving Manila. She was 40 years old then, in the company of three other Filipinas, all in their early to mid-30s. They were lucky I was with them," she said. "Otherwise, they would have been raped. Or worse."

Unusual story

The US Census Bureau estimates that 153,310 undocumented aliens come from the Philippines—insignificant compared to 3,187,912 Mexicans. "Illegals" increase at the rate of 500,000 per year and the current total estimate is over 18 million, which roughly is the total population of 190 million is still so miniscule one is hard pressed to appreciate the current anti-immigrant hysteria. Border runners are characterized as traffickers, drug smugglers, terrorists—just about anything, except Aling Prosing.

TEARS FOR FEARS: A Filipina mother wipes tears, recalling bittersweet memories in pursuit of a better life for her family. Above, Filipinos throw all their fears away to cross a black tunnel that would take them from Mexico to the States in pursuit of the Great American Dream.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOHN GERRY LIRIO FOR THE INQUIRER GLOBAL PINOY

Her unusual story began with her husband getting ensnared in the Asian financial crisis of 1997. He became so spiritual, he eschewed things of this world, even his job. And while filing Pennsing had a small business. I had to finish the repairs, the construction ..."

Off she went to San Francisco, where the immigration officer asked why she was returning after only six months. She couldn't say it wasn't she who turned in and out the last time. "I had no logical reply." She was placed on the first plane back to Manila, losing the cost of her tickets and her visa.

She could not re-apply. "I had a record already." Somehow she found a connection, an airline employee who worked with a travel agency. The fee was kind of shocking. "Two hundred thousand pesos!"

Where to get the money? The house was backed again for P250,000. "I wanted to leave the $5,000 for the children."

Off to Mexico

The agency made her one last unusual offer. It applied for a visa for her—but not to the US. To Mexico. What that meant escaped her. "I thought we would then fly to Los Angeles," she said. She would be traveling with three other women and they were all to act like they were relatives on a family vacation. Maybe mother and daughters. In Mexico City, the husband of the airline employee met them. "First thing he did was collect our tickets," she said. "I suppose the return ticket would be cashed in, even though we paid it."

For seven days, they did the tourist stuff, making their way around the state of Sonora which flanked the US border in Sonora, the husband collected them from the hotel, piled them into a car and they were off. "We kept driving and driving and driving." She didn't know they were heading for Agua Prieta which had become a hub for "illegal" entry into the US, since border patrols were busted up at traditional crossing points.

At Agua Prieta, the husband collected 200,000 pesos from each. This he handed themover to a "guide." He was sweaty, not very tall but very muscular and also very quick and sought in movement. He led them to an underground drainage pipe. The Agua Prieta drainage pipe. Four feet and one woman downward. Three men, one woman and a 3-year-old man aged to ride out the flood by clinging to a ladder inside the tunnel.

Tucson, Arizona

They walked for hours. Aling Prosing felt their socks under her feet, smelled the pungency of things submerged and then dried. Even during their short breaks, the would not release the guide. Nine dawn, they reached another opening—but this time 20 feet overhead. They would have to clamber up rocks. She made the younger women go first, then begged the guide to push her up. "I didn't care what part of my body he pushed against—my behind, my pan-kaue ..." All her muscles trembled, her heart pounded. Exhausted, she pulled herself out of the hole, collapsed on the ground and found herself looking at a highway. And there was a car with headlights flashing off and on. Her companions had rushed off, leaving her penniless. But she managed to call one woman she knew in Tucson, Arizona.

It would be that way between her and the three women. After an overnight rest, they were taken to the Tucson airport where "I spent seven dollars but they wouldn't charge my pesos. I never saw them again," she said.

Six months later, a sudden heavy downpour overflowed the Agua Prieta drainage pipe. Four men and one woman drowned. Three men, one woman and a 3-year-old man aged to ride out the flood by clinging to a ladder inside the tunnel.

Green card holders can be deported

JOHN, A GREEN CARD holder, was returning to California after spending his annual Christmas vacation in Manila. At the port of entry the Customs and Border Protection (CBP) inspector asked John further questions about his green card and he was then taken into custody at the airport.

During interrogation, it was revealed to John that there was a serious defect in the issuance of his green card. In 1990, when he was issued a green card based on his marriage to Carol, a US citizen, it was discovered that he did not attend his first marriage in Ghana.

John divorced Carol after getting his green card and remarried Cecilia. After many years, Cecilia was able to get her green card also after being petitioned by John. His two minor children were also able to immigrate.

John applied for naturalization also before he left for Manila. His naturalization application was pending when he attempted to re-enter the United States on the first week of January 2008.

Unfortunately, John was incarcerated while waiting for his hearing date. He thus he will be released instead until he accepted an Order of Removal from the Immigration Court. He also waived his right to a hearing as he was told by a consultant that he has a "hopeless" case. John now waits to re-enter the US. His wife and two children are waiting for John's return to the US.

IMFO
Lourdes Santos Zamora

Permanent status

The "green card" is usually referred to as the identification card issued by the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) which indicates status as a lawful permanent resident of the US. When an individual is granted a green card, he is afforded the opportunity to reside in the US and will eventually be eligible to obtain naturalization to US citizenship after three or five years depending on the basis of the green card.

A permanent residence status is not actually "permanent" in the sense that it may always be revoked or rescinded by the issuing agency. Examples of cases where the green card is revoked is where the holder obtained the green card through fraud or misrepresentation; the conviction of a crime that renders the holder removable. Even if the green card is not conditional, if it appears that the resident is abandoned or have committed fraud as in the case of the issuance of card, the USCIS may still revoke the card.

Unlike a holder of a non-immigrant visa, a green card holder is entitled to re-hearing before the green card is actually rescinded. If the reason for such is that there was fraud in the issuance of the green card, then it is the burden of the green card holder to overcome that finding.

Fraud, misrepresentation

From among the many legal bases for the rescission of a green card, the most common ground encountered is fraud or misrepresentation. Cases of applicants for a green card not revealing actual marital status; misrepresenting to the CBP inspector that actual days spent abroad; marriage fraud are just a few of the examples commonly encountered. Once there is issuance of fraud are discovered, the CBP inspector may initiate the action to have the green card rescinded.

Unless there is a prior final order of deportation or removal, an applicant for admission with a permanent resident status is entitled to a hearing. While waiting for the hearing date, the immigration and Customs Enforcement may take the green card holder in custody. Bail may be posted for the release of the individual. The amount may be set by ICE or by the Immigration Judge at the bond hearing determination.

Once the case is heard by the judge and the green card holder is determined to be ineligible for the green card with no other relief available, an Order of Deportation/Removal will be issued and the green card holder is ordered deported/removed from the US.

In the case of John, the US CBP may have discovered the fraud during his application for naturalization. The fraud may either be a marriage fraud or misrepresentation of material fact relating to eligibility to receive the green card.

Marriage fraud will be treated the same as if John had his second wife just for immigration purposes and never intended on a long term basis like he did with his citizen wife. If the finding is marriage fraud, John is barred from having any petition filed on his behalf under section 204(c) of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

On the other hand, if it is found as misrepresentation other than marriage fraud, he may file the appropriate waivers before he can actually have a visa issued again.

It actually does not matter when the fraud was actually committed in obtaining the visa. With the improved technology and data bases available to the USCIS, any green card holder who may have committed fraud in the past may find themselves facing removal proceedings or receiving orders of deportation.

(Lourdes may be reached at lourdessantos.com or 632 887 7777)

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Gonzales newest RP Grandmaster /A28

Sunday SPORTS

Editor Teddyboy S. Melendrez Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Ochoa

- Federer passes tough test /A29

It's now or never for Express, Tigers

By Dalia Sambrano, Bobbie Tellan Gotinga

Coca-Cola coach Binky Favis can only hope that they won't be satisfied with just that.

The Tigers play another knockout game today taking on the Express at 4:45 for a quarterfinal berth in the Great Wall Philippine Cup at the Cuneta Astrodome.

"I'm just happy we're still alive in the playoffs," said Favis.

The 6-foot-9 Junior MVP and Tolan, both former Talk 'N Text players, played great games in dipping the tourist second Sta. Photo Hills rocks. They hope have to outscore the same effort today.

Coca-Cola will try into an 0-0 team that fastened our defending champion Barangay Ginebra last Sunday night, thereby running that for the 22nd straight year, the All-Filipino Cup will change hands.

"Sorry for the millions of Ginebra fans but we have a job to do," said coach Bo Perasol after the Express knocked off the Kings, 119-113.

Jun despite the elation, Perasol knows that his team, too, has to buckle down to work.

"This is a big stepping stone but we have to pull through Sunday," said the Ilonggo mentor. "Otherwise, the semifinals are nothing."

Tolan, who went on record last Jun- day to say that he really wanted "to kill" his former team Talk 'N Text, won't have a hard time finding inspiration tonight. The former La Salle ace once suited up for the Express, too.

Tolan, Tenkiu, Jenjay Enverada, Alex Cabagnot, John Wigo and veteran Ernesto Dumanlas will lead the Tiger crew.

Mo El will have on in favor of athletic big men like Arwind Santos, KG Canaleta, Ronald de Ocampo, JC Intal, Gabby Espinas, Homero Sy and Doug Kramer. The Express are also loaded at the backcourt with the likes of Gary David, Wynne Arboleda and defensive ace Joe Chi-Asi leading the charge there.

The winner of the match advances to the quarterfinals against Alaska.

Joel Bell said Magnolia will drag it out in the other quarterfinal headers.

The winners advance to the semifinals opposite Purefoods and San Luis, which booked outright berths in the final four.

Despite Mo El's seeming advantage in depth, which should be enough to neutralize Coca-Cola's strength underneath the boards, Perasol is still wary about the uncertainty of the Sunday showdown against the Tigers.

"Sunday is a big game," Perasol said. "What I worry the most is the fact that Coca-Cola is coming out with a winning streak. They're soaring high following their win over Talk 'N Text."

"There would be no problem if we can play some way we played tonight," Perasol added.

The Express also have a psychological edge against the Tigers, having gone 2-0 against them in the eliminations round.

Mo El defeated Coca-Cola on Nov. 3, 102-91, and then repeated with an almost similar score, 102-97, last Dec. 23.

Tolan and Tenkiu came up huge Sunday night against the Phone Hits. Tolan supported with 22 points while Tenkiu added 13 points and 16 rebounds despite shooting poorly from the field.

"I think I was too excited to play. I couldn't get anything right," said Tenkiu.

Still, he is the guy the whole Coca-Cola game plan revolves around and even Tolan admits that much.

"We wouldn't be here if not for Ted and Mark," said the Tiger mentor.

Against the Kings Sunday night, the Express almost blew an eight-point lead inside the final three minutes, and needed a giant three-pointer from Ronald de Ocampo in the last 27.7 seconds to register the victory.

And Perasol hopes he will not have to go through the same endgame nerve-racking (this time around).

"We have to learn to keep our poise," he said.

Manong B. Gonzales

Pacquiao gets more perks from Arum

PACQUIAO

By Ray Lustre

FILIPINO IDOL SUPERSTAR MANNY PACquiao will be getting royal treatment when he heads to Las Vegas for his much-awaited rematch with Mexican Juan Manuel Marquez on March 15.

Apart from having the league share of the fight purse, Pacquiao will be given first-class airfare, lavish accommodations and other concessions, according to Top Rank chief honcho Bob Arum.

The amiable Arum was quoted as saying that Pacquiao and his trainer Freddie Roach will be provided suites, while his entourage and guests will be given several rooms at the Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino where Pacquiao-Marquez II will be held.

In addition, Pacquiao will be given 30 ringside seats at the Mandalay Bay Events Center.

Actually, Arum wants Pacquiao to take the plane from Los Angeles, where he is currently training at Roach's Wild Card Gym, to Las Vegas.

Pacquiao, however, can't to learn to accept the offer as he likes to travel by land.

The 74-year-old Arum said he isn't looking for Pacquiao's demands as these are commensurate with Pacquiao's status, having been named the world's best pound-for-pound fighter in 2006.

Arum also disclosed that tickets for the 12,000-seat venue are selling briskly with 40 percent of the tickets priced at $600, $400, $300, $200 and $100 sold out.

An even bigger amount of money is expected to be generated from the $49.95 pay-per-view buys in US households.

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Fischer was 'the pride and sorrow of chess'

FISCHER: 'He left the world too early'

REYKJAVIK, Iceland—Bobby Fischer, who has died at the age of 64, was a child prodigy, a teenage grandmaster and—before the age of 29—a world champion who triumphed in a Cold War showdown with Soviet champion Boris Spassky.

But the last three decades of his life were spent in seclusion, broken periodically by erratic and often anti-Semitic communiqués by a bizarre legal showdown with his homeland, the United States.

"He was the pride and sorrow of chess," said Raymond Keene, a British grandmaster and chess correspondent for The Times of London. (See related story on A2)

"It's tragic," he said. "One such a great man descended into anti-Semitism."

Fischer died Thursday of kidney failure in Reykjavik, Iceland,after a long illness, friend and spokesman Gardar Sverrisson said Friday.

"A giant of the chess world is gone," said Fridrik Olafsson, an Icelandic grandmaster and former president of the World Chess Federation.

Fischer once said, "Chess is life."

It was Fischer's tragedy that the uncanny intensity and talent that fueled his 64 squares domination of his chess.

Chicago-born, Brooklyn, New York-raised Fischer moved to Iceland in 2005 in a bid to avoid extradition to the US, where he was wanted for playing a 1992 match Yugoslavia in defiance of international sanctions.

At his peak, Fischer was a figure of mystery and glamour who drew millions of new fans to chess.

Russian chess master world chess champion Garry Kasparov said Fischer's ascent of the chess world in the 1960s was "a revolution on a breakthrough" for the game.

"The tragedy is that he left this world too early, and his extravagant life and scandalous statements did not contribute to the popularity of chess," Kasparov told The Associated Press.

Friend and friend Spassky, reached at his home in France, said in a brief phone call

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PSC wants athletes vice-free

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINE SPORTS COMMISSION (PSC) is taking measures to protect the athletes...even from themselves.

PSC chair Butch Ramirez last week said he will empower the agency's monitoring war group to bake sure the athletes' quarters are secure and in good condition.

But he added another task to the group: Make sure the quarters and the athletes are vice-free.

Ramirez especially wants the group to check on and eliminate the presence of alcohol and cigarettes in the athletes' quarters.

"We will introduce new and tougher measures to ensure the security and environment," said Ramirez. "But we will be very careful not to be offensive to athletes and coaches."

The monitoring group is made up of former athletes, including track legend Elma Muros-Posadas, Olympian shooter Enrique Rovelo and former NL football lights Jun Lim.

In June task, the PSC chief said, is to make sure the athletes quarters are livable, with cushioned mattresses, pillows and fresh beddings.

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IPT CHALLENGE

Bustamante tangles with Deuel

BUSTAMANTE

FILIPINO FRANCISCO "Django" Bustamante tries to assault his foes from where he faces American Corey Deuel in the International Pool Tour (IPT) Challenge March on Jan. 24 in the United States.

Bustamante, one of the top players of Hyatt Sports, emerged the Derby City Classic Masters of the Table champion recently at the West Executive Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky.

The world's former No. 1 player won a finalist in the 9-ball competition, a semifinalist in the nine-ended event and a quarterfinalist in the 8-ball rank competition in the event that offered a total pot of $100,000.

Aside from the $10,000 first prize, Bustamante also earned 100 points in the IPT world rankings.

According to an IPT news release sent to the Hyatt Sports office announcing the live match will take place at 8 p.m. East Coast Time in the online IPT website.

The gamer is 8-ball, and the first player to win 11 games takes the match.

Two years ago, IPT got embroiled in a controversy after failing to pay some of the prizes of the winners in the richest IPT World 9-Ball in Nevada. Mid-of former Efren "Bata" Reyes, topped the said event worth $500,000. Marlon Bernardino, Contributor

Insulting polls

VETERAN MEDIA MAN RONNIE Nathanielsz was the first to refute most of the results of the board meeting last Thursday, Jan. 17 at the PBA office in Libis, Quezon City.

Nonnie did not stand an effort to make his disapproval known as the chair declared another milestone, this time with the majority score reversed 3-9 in favor of Nazareno as president. Santos Ocampo.

IN HUDDLE

Ruth Cielo

The heated had rested four times by seven balloting but the result always came out the same each time.

What must have irked and angered the fiery columnist, causing sarcastic, biting words to spew from his mouth, was the move of the board to appoint officer-in-charge Jimmy Barrios as permanent commissioner until July 25, the end of the 2007-2008 PBA season.

* * *

"Have you called Hinoos, Salud (Dizon) and Romeo to inform them of this development?" was Nonnie's first question, which must have been perceived as a form of interrogation by seven members (except Willie Ong (vice-chair), Robert Non (treasurer) and Chito who were absent on the first day of the media during the press conference following the board meeting.

The answer was negative.

Second question: "Don't you think it's unfair to ask them to wait for another 5-6 months, as if they are called-up for the job and would be willing to wait that long before a concession is rendered?"

By the time Barrios's 'encouragement' and lengthy pontification were over, egos were badly bruised and he had become all the more unsure. It still.

Nothing that he was right, Barrios couldn't care less.

Curiously, unlike in the first election where all the governors left immediately before Off. Sonny Barrios has the media to announce the outcome of the meeting, the members of the board stayed behind long after the press conference was over.

Maybe they sensed controversy brewing because of their inability to reach a consensus.

They were right.

* * *

Time afternoon, Chito Salud and Lamberti had a heart-to-heart talk over the phone. Both agreed that what Saul was...

Gonzales newest RP Grandmaster

JAYSON Gonzales (Mom) Filipino is fresh unveiled title.

Standings after 10 rounds

Group A

8.5 points—C. Hong (Singapore); 7—Yin Jianmin (China); 6.5—**R. Gonzales (RP)**, I. Magsanoc (Indonesia); 6—E. Sutio (RP), S. A. Nyamsuren (Mongolia); 5.5—M. Sadzakov (Malaysia); 5—**R. Nasri (RP)**; 4.5—N. Setiaji (Indonesia), Z. Kusnadi (Indonesia); 3—R. Sitepu (Indonesia); 2—**R. Ramirez (RP)**

Group B

8.5 points—**M. Paragua (RP)**; 7—**J. Antonio (RP)**; 6.5—A. Rambiasan (Indonesia); 6—**R. Bulo (RP)**, S. Sharmal (Indonesia); 5.5—C. Poquiz (Indonesia); 5—**R. Barbosa (RP)**; 4. Sanggang (Indonesia); 3—C. Bitra (Indonesia); 2.5—O. Bacamurco (Indonesia); 2.0—Chi Shi (Malaysia)

Group C

8 points—L. Sadikin (Indonesia); 7.5—E. Inarkiev (Indonesia); 7—A. Oros (Singapore); 6.5—C. Umakanth (Indonesia); 5.5—Tiol Ning (Ahmad); 5. Su (Singapore); 4.5—**E. Bacosa (RP)**; 4. **Asmaya (RP)**

IT TOOK A LONG TIME COMING, but Jayson Gonzales finally got his Grandmaster title in the inaugural leg of the Asian Masters Chess Circuit in Tambo, Parañaque.

Gonzales actually netted his third and final GM result by beating countryman Pale Master Oliver Barbosa in the ninth round by virtue of the 37th Pride (Shield Dena Bokormanza). That victory catapulted his 8.0 point host to Acharya Interpersonal GM Master Julius Nadurata Friday night no hearing.

Other Filipino bets also rumbled with GM Mark Paragua securing himself of the men's Group B title and National Master Rolando Nolte completing his IM title despite losing to GM Susanto to 34 moves of the Sicilian.

Paragua whipped GM Tay Hong Kok of Malaysia in 31 moves of the Modern Defense to tally 8.5 points and move he-point rivals of Gonzales, who stayed at 7.5 points and Sadzakov (6.5 points).

"I'm very happy for this achievement," said Gonzales, a native of Ligao, Albay. "It's been a very short dream and I thank God I finally got it."

The achievement of Gonzales, a mainstay of the Philippine Army, was relayed by Asian executive director Peter Long to National Chess Federation of the Philippines president Prospero "Bambi" Pichay who graciously granted Tagaytay Mayor Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino.

Pichay announced the good news during the well-attended NCFP Congress held at the Tagaytay International Convention Center yesterday.

Gonzales then became the country's sixth active Filipino Super GM (#194), the late Rosendo Balinas (1976), Rogelio Antonio Jr. (1990), Bong Villamayor (2000), Nelson Mariano (2004), Mark Paragua (2005), Darwin Laylo (2007) and Wesley So (2007).

In Group B, GM Hong Zhong of Singapore topped Indonesian IM Tiong of Indonesia with 8.5 and 7.5 points. Sutio at 6.5 points with Indonesian GM Susanto Megaranto, Marlon Bernardino

Coseteng, Santos thwart field in Touring Car championships

JUDY Coseteng of her Mig Coffee-Lois Rookie Racing at Porac ORA in the finalleg, but scores overall title.

SUBIC—JUDY COSETENG of her Mig's Coffee and Alvin Santos of Rotor Network Multi Racing Racing Team sailed their respective duo wins recently in the 2007 Philippine Touring Car Championship at the Subic International Raceway.

Despite losing in the final leg, Coseteng still bagged the overall crown in the Group 1 division for his 11th straight touring car title—an unprecedented feat in Philippine motorsports.

Santos exerted the challenge from a Japanese rival to complete a season sweep and capture the Group 3 title.

The title quest didn't end the way Coseteng planned it to be. Due to some minor technicalities, Coseteng was penalized causing him to forego some points.

In the afternoon, Coseteng was about to resume his lead but he was very ahead of the pack when his engine suddenly blew up with eight laps to go, thus forcing him out of the race.

The day belonged to Rookie Rainbow of Weena Mirage who pulled a sweep in the final leg to capture the overall runner-up honors in the Group 1 category.

South Korean duo of Petron ORA rook the runner-up finish over Max Hwansung of Mobi Racing Team for Division 1's of Mitsubishi Motors Cherry runner-up honors over Louis Ramirez.

Chiang Kai Shek, St. Jude, UNO High stay unbeaten

TOMBOY COCKERS: Japanese and American rockers attend the press conference of "San Juan Coliseum 2008 International 9-Dark Derby" at Manila's Oriental Hotel in Makati City. From left: Hiroki Morita (Japan), Jorge Torres (California), John Ballowell (Louisiana), Juan Campbell (Ohio), Joseph Torrella (Hawaii), Jerry Adkins (Ohio), Jose Casey (Texas) and Grady Malone. The four-day event starts tomorrow.

DEFENDING CHAMPION CHIANG KAI Shek (CKS) High School and host St. Jude Catholic School separate rivals to stay undefeated in the 82nd Metro Manila Boys Inter-Basketball Tournament held recently at two venues.

With 6-foot-5 Justin Dizon and sweet shooting John Lasdoce at the firing end, Chiang Kai Shek crushed Grace Christian High School, 94-73, in a fitting sequel to its thrilling opening day victory over Inter-Cred Xavier School, last Friday at the Xavier Gym in San Juan.

Dizon, being cited by teamies for the coming LNAT tests, scored 16 points and grabbed eight rebounds while Lasdoce chipped in 14 points and 10 boards.

Not to be outdone, St. Jude rode on Ronilo, Ryle Ong and Dominico Lam to turn back Hope Christian High School, 62-48, at the UNO High School last Wednesday for its second straight win in the tournament conducted by Intramuros, Pasig, Caloocan, Florida Optimist, Mandaluyong, Muntinlupa, Malabon, Mandaluyong, Muntinlupa, Malabon, Mandaluyong, Muntinlupa, Malabon

Hotshot Roy, Trail Blazers stretch Heat drought

MIAMI — PORTLAND'S BRANDON ROY spurred a fourth-quarter rally to lead the Trail Blazers to a 96-91 victory over the Miami Heat on Friday, ending the hosts' 11-game losing streak.

Roy scored 16 of his 24 points in the final quarter as the Trail Blazers withstood a 37-point performance from Dwyane Wade.

"They really brought it to us in the third quarter," Roy told reporters. "Dwyane did a great job of rallying his guys."

Wade scored 26 points in the third quarter as Miami closed it out with a 14-0 run to make a 76-69 lead.

"We thought that was the turning point, but it wasn't," Wade said.

Roy then spurred Portland's victory charge, scoring seven consecutive points in a 14-0 run that gave them an 86-78 advantage with five minutes remaining.

A challenge by Portland coach Nate McMillan helped inspire the Blazers.

"At the end of the third quarter, our coach came up to us and said, 'Look, fellows, we're hosting, but others everything is going good but how do we respond when things go bad for us?'"

"I think everybody took it as a challenge to come out in the fourth quarter and we showed that we can get tough when things get a little rusty," Roy added.

Jason Williams's three-pointer pulled Miami within 90-88 with two minutes to play before Travis Outlaw's jumper and Ames Jones' three-pointer put Portland 95-88 ahead with 27 seconds left.

Outlaw finished with 18 points and eight rebounds.

Shaquille O'Neal aided Miami's bid to snap the team's third-longest losing streak with 20 points and 11 rebounds.

Rasheed Wallace had his career high with 40 points and the Golden State Warriors overcame a 14-point deficit to beat the Bulls 119-111 for their first win in Chicago in eight games.

The Sacramento Kings surprised the Detroit Pistons with a 108-93 road win, getting 24 points from Kevin Martin and 18 from Ron Artest. Chauncey Billups had 28 points and 14 assists for the Pistons.

Phoenix's Steve Nash did not miss a shot, going six-for-six from the floor and four-for-four from the line, to scoring 17 points to go with 15 assists as the Suns handed the Minnesota Timberwolves a 28th consecutive road loss, a 123-95 rout.

Ray Allen had 22 points and Paul Pierce 22 in the Boston Celtics' 115-89 romp over the Philadelphia 76ers.

Antawn Jamison scored 32 points and Caron Butler had 22 as the Washington Wizards ended the New York Knicks's three-game winning streak with a 111-98 home win.

Butler also made four consecutive free throws as eight his league-leading total to 34 in a row.

Jim Good led the Memphis Grizzlies to a 124-100 home win over the fourth-place Spurs, scoring 24 points and grabbing 12 rebounds as Memphis ended a five-game skid.

Chris Bosh's 25 points powered the Toronto Raptors to an 80-78 home win over the Atlanta Hawks.

BOSTON'S Paul Pierce (right) helps the Celtics rout the Philadelphia 76ers.

David West had 26 points and Chris Paul added 24 points and 13 assists as the New Orleans Hornets's fourth win in a row, a 112-84 romp over the Charlotte Bobcats.

Reuters

The other Maria gets her share of limelight

MELBOURNE — MARIA KIRILENKO HAS been a serial underachiever at Grand Slams, but she believes the current Australian Open will be the one to carry on from her run to Wimbledon quarter-finals and the Australian Open on Saturday.

The Russian 25th seed had not been beyond the third round in 16 previous Grand Slams, choking when the going got tough.

But her gritty 6-7 (6-8), 6-1, 6-2 rally over Israeli qualifier Shahar Peer in the first round left her in fourth round for the first time and she is hoping it is her long-awaited breakthrough.

"Actually I think it's quite good to win for me. Before I beat a couple of good players, like top 20, but usually I'm losing every time first round in the Grand Slams," she said.

"Mostly, it's good I broke this tradition."

The eleventh-seeded Peer said she noticed Chakvetadze looked tired and she worked to exploit the weakness by pushing her around the court.

KIRILENKO

"I saw that she's little bit tired, because there's two big actions on the court. Sometimes I saw it's hurt," she said.

Kirilenko has known Chakvetadze since they were on the juniors circuit.

The two belong to a line of Russian pin-up stars who are dominating tennis talk with their looks and skill, following the lords of Maria Sharapova.

Reuters

Federer passes tough test

Defending Australian Open champ survives fall of seeds

MELBOURNE — GUILLEMO ARTIST ROGER FEDERER TURNED SLUGGER ON Saturday, walking up all his opponent's big shots to salvage his Australian Open dream and reach the final 16 round by the narrowest of margins.

While big names dropped like flies on day six, the defending champion came on all his big-match experience to fight off world No. 49 Jarko Tipsarevic, 6-7, 7-6, 7-7, 6-1, 10-8.

It took him a shade under four-and-a-half hours to reject the Serb and breathe new life into his bid for a 13th grand slam crown.

"What a great battle," the world number one said. "This is where you get guys late-early in life.

"Hey for him, but what a great victory for me. Pay somebody has to win, wish we could have drawn sometimes too."

At times Federer had looked down and out, sluggish, heavy on his feet and struggling for movement.

"I thought I was in great shape saturating the fourth set and just tried to stay with him," he said. "He was just going for his shots and kept making them. In the end, I just tried to block out all the chances I missed."

Federer's ability to conjure victory from what on paper looked a concrete victory for his opponent was a testament to his feeble 6-3, 6-4 capitulation to Poland's Agnieszka Radwanska.

"It's pretty simple: I think I lose myself up our there, and I didn't do much right things," the Russian world No. 2 said.

FEDERER: What we could have drawn sometimes too

Fischer: Chess' pride, sorrow

Previous page A27

than he was "very sorry" to hear of Fischer's death.

Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, president of the World Chess Federation, called Fischer "a phenomenon and an epoch in chess history, and an intellectual giant" and "I would rank next to Newton and Einstein."

An American three-champion at 11 and a grand master at 15, Fischer vanquished Spassky in 1972 in a series of games in Iceland's capital, Reykjavik, to become the first official by recognized world champion born in the United States.

The Fischer-Spassky match, at the height of the Cold War, took on mythic dimensions as a clash between the world's two superpowers.

It was a myth Fischer was happy to fuel. "It's really--for five weeks against the lying, cheating, hypocritical Russians," he said.

But Fischer's reputation as a genius of these was eclipsed, in the eyes of many, by his idiosyncrasies.

He lost his world title in 1975 after refusing to defend it against Soviet Anatoly Karpov. He dropped out of competitive chess and largely out of view, spending time in Hungary and the Philippines and emerging occasionally to make outspoken and often outrageous comments.

He praised the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, saying "Osama (as we the US-styled) can," and described Jews as "thieving, lying bastards." "He don't bother me Jewish.

In July 2004, Fischer was arrested at Japan's Narita airport for traveling on a revoked US passport. He was detained until early November as the United States refused charges of violating sanctions imposed to punish Slobodan Milosevic, then president of Yugoslavia, for playing a 1992 rematch against Spassky in the country.

Fischer renounced his US citizenship and spent some months in exile in Hungary before the dispute was resolved when Iceland—a three-total nation of 300,000—granted him citizenship.

In his final years, Fischer railed against the three establishment, alleging that the outcome of many top-level chess matches were decided in advance.

Instead, he championed his own type of "Fischerandom," or random chess, in which pieces are shuffled at the beginning of each match in a bid to reinvigorate the game.

"I don't play the old chess," he told reporters in Iceland in 2005. "But obviously if I did, I would be the best." AP

NBA STANDINGS

SATURDAY'S GAMES NOT AVAILABLE

Standings	W	L	PCT	GB
Atlantic Division				
1. Boston	32	9	.582	—
2. Toronto	33	10	.569	½
3. New Jersey	28	20	.412	11
4. Philadelphia	24	24	.333	16
5. NY Knicks	17	37	.298	20 ½
Central Division				
1. Detroit	38	11	.775	—
2. Cleveland	31	18	.633	7 ½
3. Indiana	28	22	.560	11
4. Milwaukee	26	23	.531	12 ½
5. Chicago	19	29	.396	18
Southeast Division				
1. Orlando	34	17	.667	—
2. Washington	31	17	.646	1 ½
3. Atlanta	27	24	.529	6 ½
4. Charlotte	23	24	.489	8
5. Miami	9	38	.191	21 ½
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Northwest Division				
1. Portland	34	13	.723	—
2. Denver	33	15	.688	1 ½
3. Utah	33	16	.673	2
4. Seattle	8	38	.174	26
5. Minnesota	5	38	.116	28 ½
Pacific Division				
1. Phoenix	38	12	.760	—
2. LA Lakers	30	17	.638	7
3. Golden State	24	17	.585	9 ½
4. Sacramento	30	23	.521	11
5. LA Clippers	11	34	.244	24 ½
Southwest Division				
1. San Antonio	37	13	.740	—
2. Dallas	30	19	.612	6 ½
3. New Orleans	30	22	.577	8
4. Houston	30	24	.571	8
5. Memphis	11	38	.224	26

NIKE'S marketing chief Tony Ammonte (left) crosses the ceremonial serve-together with actor NCAA officials ex-tick off the annual promotion calendar of the NCAA at the Rod Memorial tennis courts.

Benilde kicks off 'beach' bid

COLLEGE OF ST. BENILDE GUNS FOR A "six-peat" in the men's division while San Sebastian College hopes to dominate the women's side as the NCAA beach volleyball tournament starts today at the La Salle Green hills make-half courts.

The Blazers will rely on the hotly-scored tandem of Ken Mahalaxi and Eddie Madrona in their bid to stretch their historic men's play.

St. Benilde has won all men's beach volleyball titles since the event was included in the NCAA calendar during the 70th season.

In the decade slide, reigning indoor volleyball Most Valuable Player (MVP) Leo Ann Lariga and Margarita Fajita will parade the bid of the Lady Stags.

With the absence of Season 81 women's champion Philippine Christian University (PCU), San Sebastian is expected to dominate the opposition.

Letran is this season's beach volleyball host.

Second semester events in the 82nd NCAA season ended all yesterday with the opening of lawn tennis, hosted by San Sebastian, at the Tennis Center of the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

Ditoy Luzon, dinhi sa Visayas, aqui en Mindanao at sa buong Pilipinas, The Philippine Daily Inquirer is the No.1 broadsheet.

Nielsen Media Index Wave 2 2007 Figures. Among broadsheet readers yesterday.

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Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

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"THE MALL OF ASIA ... is the grandest project of my life."

SM through half a century

SHOEMART TURNS 50 THIS YEAR. SUNDAYBIZ features a photo essay of its growth with quotes from its founder Henry Sy, named the Father of Philippine Retail, compiled over the past five decades.

1958—Henry Sy Sr. opens the first Shoemart store in downtown Manila.

"I thought that if I sold a pair of shoes to every Filipino, I would be a successful man."

1980s—Shoemart expands to shoe store chain. It is one of the pioneers in the new urban centers in Makati and Cubao.

"My store is Makati was the

(P.8)

Rush Hour

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SM through half a century

From page B1

in a Shoemart customer who was a prominent real estate agent. I saw the development of Makati from the time there was just one building in Ayala Avenue. I saw the potentials of the place and made my investments."

1970s—Shoemart evolves from a shoe store to a department store. It was also during this time that Shoemart became SM Hypermart or SM, which has immense eye, uniqueness with one-stop shopping. The company also ventured into the banking business during this time.

"I started with shoes, and with hard work and self-discipline, the business prospered. I moved to the department store business and again, things went well."

1980s—SM continued itself for growth, expanding to department store chain, and venturing into the supermarket and appliance business.

It was also during this time that it fully acquired its main bank, Banco de Oro, and ventured into property projects like Gallerie de Magallanes and The Edsa Towers.

"I make sure that we serve more people and we serve them better."

1985—SM opens its first shopping center, SM City North Edsa. "While I was on my buying trips abroad, I saw the shopping center development in the US. From the east to the west coast. I knew that this would happen in the Philippines."

"In 1985, we were building SM City North Edsa, our first shopping mall. Many people at that time said I was crazy. There was a political crisis; interest rates were as high as 45 percent, and the location of the mall was in the middle of nowhere. They said that SM City would not succeed, but the mall was the most successful."

1990s—SM spearheads what is known as the malling phenomenon in the Philippines with the opening of SM Megamall in 1991. Malling becomes a way of life for millions of Filipinos as SM malls are opened in the metro and provincial areas.

"This is also a period of dynamism for its banking business as Banco de Oro grows into a commercial bank in 1994 and a universal bank in 1996.

"With the SM shopping malls, people will use it changed Philippine lifestyle. Families and friends spend time together in the malls. They shop, dine and have fun, whatever age, and whatever budget they have."

1994—SM transfers its shopping center business to SM Prime Holdings, a publicly listed company. "I like the excitement of change and new and better ideas. I look for excellence in performance."

2000s—SM's supermalls embark on an aggressive expansion program, opening at least two new malls a year. By late 2007, there are 38 supermalls. With the boom of the property sector, SM Development Corp. embarks on several residential and tourism projects.

Banco de Oro acquires several bank and mergers with Equitable PCI Bank, making it one of the country's largest banks. The merger becomes the catalyst for further consolidation in the country's financial services sector.

"For now, I still get great satisfaction from working in the malls and watching people shop and have fun in a clean, safe and exciting environment. One newspaper said that the SM shopping malls were the first to cross the working man the same way as his boss."

2005—SM makes local stock market history with the breakup of SM Investments Corp., its publicly listed holding company.

"My basic strategy is to stick to my core business and to my area of expertise. My business is all related...retail, shopping centers, banking, real estate and tourism development. Together, they create synergy."

2006—The SM Mall of Asia, which is envisioned to be the premiere destination mall in the Asia-Pacific region, opens.

"The Mall of Asia . . . is the greatest project of my life."

In the 90's, he set up the SM Foundation to give back to the communities where SM Malls are located.

"We want do something to help others in society. I am pleased that through SM Foundation, we are able to do many socio-civic projects, and support as any one since 600 college scholars in need who come from public schools."

HENRY Sy in the 50's with the late Enrique Zobel, a close friend.

SY WITH business associate Lance Morrison

SY's SM delivery truck

THE FIRST cash register used by SM when it only stands in Sy's office

SALESLADIES from the then-1 department during the 60's

With associates, circa 1980's

A POSTCARD of SM Makati

OLD SM North Edsa

SM MAKATI circa 1980's

"MAME...as Chairman Emeritus Gil Sy, has been sporting Hawaiian shirts for the past 20 years

AWARD for the opening of SM Makati

PLANNING of the SM North Edsa circa 1990's

SY in the 1980's with American friend Ben [illegible]

Lessons from the richest man who ever lived

BILL GATES IS WORTH $46 BILLION. Warren Buffet is worth $32 billion. Ho, if accounts of the ancient king Solomon are accurate, he often would have dwarfed the wealth of today's richest men, topping the modern-day equivalent of $1 trillion, or $1,000 billion!

In "The Richest Man Who Ever Lived," author Steven K. Scott looks into the writings of King Solomon to find lessons from history's wealthiest man. Scott's observations form the basis for the week's lesson.

King Solomon succeeded to the throne of Israel around 970 BC when his father David died. Known only to the Old Testament, God appeared to Solomon and offered to grant him one desire. Solomon, considered about his inexperience and ability to rule, asked for wisdom so that he could govern God's people of Israel. God was so impressed with Solomon's selfless request that He decided to bless him, not only with wisdom, but also with wealth. God promised to bestow upon Solomon greater riches and honor than any king before him or any king that would come after him.

What was promised was delivered. Solomon's wisdom, success and wealth increased beyond imagination. His gold reserves, holdings of land and livestock, and royal palaces were immense. Rulers of nations throughout the world sought his sage advice. During his life, Solomon penned the book of Proverbs in the Bible, surviving from generation to generation, his writings have influenced the world for thousands of years.

In a past edition of this column, we examined the life of Ben Franklin for similarities about diligence. In this lesson, we'll cover similar territory by analyzing the King Solomon's writings on diligence as portrayed by author Steven Scott.

Consequences of not being diligent

1. You Will Be Poked.

"The hand of the diligent will rule, but the slack hand will be put to forced labor" (Proverbs 12:24).

No one likes being forced to work or toil, and we despise being ordered around by others. Yet, if we're lazy, our labor will be dictated by the demands of someone else. This principle can be seen most clearly in the Roman civil codes. Laziness will frustrate leads to debt, and when you're in debt we don't rule our money. Instead of enjoying our discretionary income, we are forced to use it to repay debts.

2. You Will Grow But Find Little Fulfillment.

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

"The soul of the sluggard craves, but has nothing," (Proverbs 13:4).

Sadly, for those who lack diligence, their lives are defined by desire rather than fulfillment. Absent of the discipline to hard the life of their dreams, they are left with empty wishes.

3. Find Self-Loch Understanding.

"He that tills his land shall be satisfied with bread, but he that follows vain persons is void of understanding," (Proverbs 28:19).

Today television channels are filled with people who guarantee wealth without work. They promise you can buy real estate with no money down, make thousands of dollars in stock trading without a penny of savings, etc. Solomon realizes that those who chase after quick-buck schemes and shady get-rich-quick schemes demonstrate only that they're ignorant. Before you do who work heartily reap the bounty of their efforts. Those who try to short the system to gain wealth find themselves on the outer losing talent advantage of.

Steps to bring diligence

Being truly diligent makes time and sacrifices, making a habit of applying diligence in the important areas of life. However, you don't have to wear yours to start employing diligence in your endeavors. Solomon gives us three steps we can use quickly to bring diligence into our careers, our marriages, or our parenting.

1. Make Up to Buckle.

"How long will you lie there? he asks. "When will you get up from your sleep? ...poverty will come on you like a bandit, and scarcity like an armed man," (Proverbs 6:9-11).

We think God we have more time than we actually do to achieve our personal and professional goals. Thus, we procrastinate doing what we know we should do. Days of inaction add together into unproductive weeks. Weeks of idleness accumulate in meaningless months. Months and months of lethargy have into wasted years, and wasted years are the frustration produced a cold filled with regret and sorrow.

Life has more to offer than evenings mindlessly surfing the Internet or relaxing on the couch watching ESPN or E! Make each day your masterpiece. Have your dreams achieve by taking steps to lead the life you imagine.

2. Define Your Vision.

"Without a vision, the people perish," (Proverbs 29:18).

When we have no vision, we lose our direction, our motivation, our joy and our commitment. Fortunately, the opposite of this proverb is also true. Whenever you introduce a true vision into our area of your life, you gain new energy. Visions spark actions and fuel initiative.

3. Hitch with Partners With Others.

"A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; he rages against all wise judgment," (Proverbs 18:1).

In today's interconnected world, the upper echelon of leadership has no room for lone rangers. Who lead are diligently develop a team of talented professionals and a network of friends and partners. In doing so, they become skill in would capital. As I wrote in The 17 Laws of Teamwork, "One + one stuff is number to achieve greatness."

For information on John Maxwell's in-house or public leadership or team-work workshops, please e-mail us at bizgrowth@gmail.com *or call 463-2049/2752. God bless!*

FEATURES IN BRIEF

Flower arrangement seminar

SINCE MOTHERS PEOPLE IN OUR COUNTRY today are getting involved with the fresh flower business. And because the Philippines is blessed with two seasons, the flower growers have to choose of multiple varieties of flowering plants to cultivate.

The climate, just locally in Region IVA, Tagaytay and Puerto City have been perfect spots to flowering plants. These places have been signaled a "go for it" in this business.

The Golden Mission Skills Development Program did not hesitate to offer this on a livelihood craft and a business enterprise. The seminar will include other flora arranging like centerpieces and corsages, traditional gatherings, personalized and inaugural motifs to the form of a gift.

On Jan. 20, Saturday, a one-day seminar on that craft will be held at the Bernard Shaw of Unlimited Talisman Bar, Brgy. 3 Quezon City.

The workshop will start at 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Invitation lunch and snacks while materials for the crafts will be provided. A certificate of training completion will be awarded to participants.

Seminar for realty service

THE PASAY REALTY Practices Board, (PARB) Inc. Brokerage is newly elected president for 2005, Flora (B. Fernando, announces the start of its Professional Income Increase Realty Service Practitioners under its ITS accredited Continuing Education Program (CEP).

Under CEP Accommodative Order No. 5-Series of 1999, realty service practitioners which include real estate brokers, appraisers and consultants must first undergo seminars. Their licenses are required to submit a certificate of not a single course attending, participating or completing their duly registered with the DTI and affiliated with the Realty Service Course for the Philippines, stating that he/she has completed at least the required number of credit hours of continuing education (CEH).

Any person or any company that becomes accreditation given by the Bureau of Trade Regulations and Consumer Protection (BTRCP) but has failed to secure a license within two years from the date of passing the examination or who fails to renew his/her license for three consecutive years shall have to complete a total of 20 hour program credit before he/she can be issued or renewed. Meanwhile, licensed realty service practitioners shall be required every three years to complete a total of 16 hours program credit to acquire their qualification for license renewal.

The initial seminar workshop which will be on Jan. 25 and 28, Friday and Saturday (from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Park Haven, Rizal's Restaurant, Olivarez 2, Makati City.

Highland rice varieties ...

From page B8

ted the department of health care to the Institute of Strata, the Ifugao Indigenous Conditions Incorporation Inc. (IICI), encouraged the cultivation of the seven varieties after these were certified to have passed product standards required for export.

Export standards

The IICI is leading the CHRD project in a bid to make native rice world-class, give more income to the Ifugao farmers, and help conserve the region's rice resources.

It has gained momentum in marketing the rice seeds and recently went to the United States, in collaboration with the Montana-based Eighth Powder Inc., which services in marketing area.

Abraham Akilit, IICI Gold Rice chairman, said 30 varieties were considered by the IICI for export, but only seven stood out in terms of quality, yield and taste.

Surviving varieties

"They are called heirloom rice since these varieties have survived more than 50 years of cultivation," he said in a recent interview in Baguio.

Akilit said the addition of seven varieties could boost the IICI's quota to export 40 to 50 metric tons of heirloom rice this year.

The yield of heirloom rice varieties palay in comparison to the commercialized hybrid rice varieties commonly grown in the country, he said. Indigenous rice varieties usually yield 40 to 50 cavans per hectare, while hybrid rice yields close to 80 cavans.

"But at 950 a kilogram, or P2,800 per cavan, his farm are definitely back the P1,200 per cavan cost of hybrid rice," Akilit said.

Mrs. Victoria Garcia, IICI executive director, was quoted in the Agri Cordillera, a DA publication as saying that the organization exported 8.9 MT of heirloom rice in 2004. In October last year, the group shipped 37 MT.

'Astonishing' market

"The foreign market is astonishing. The demand would really revitalize heirloom rice production," Akilit said.

Backed by the success of the heirloom rice, the DA, Bureau of Plant Industry, NIA and the Bureau of Soil Harvest Research and Extension have committed support for the production of more heirloom rice varieties.

To satisfy the growing demand, Akilit said farmers should be encouraged to widen their plantation areas devoted to indigenous rice.

Currently, dispersed rice from highland municipalities Ifugao were only 200 cavans metric in average size.

Akilit lamented that only Mountain Province, Ifugao and Ilagan had included in heirloom rice production. Benguet, Abra and Apayao can host hundreds devoted to traditional rice varieties but they all depends on the policy commitment of local officials, he said.

The NIA has been supporting the native rice production program since it boosts the reputation of the Cordillera rice varieties as "the most nutritional friendly farming technology," Akilit said.

Organically grown

"The native varieties are organically raised since no chemical farm inputs are used. Planting them also encourages farmers to transport local plants to nursery orchards there."

But the best advantage is that the rice terraces where traditional varieties are cultivated are located between rivers and forests. This setup, Akilit said, made the rice fields a buffet zone that enhanced watershed protection.

LANDSCAPE of Rice Terraces at Mayoyao, Ifugao.

PREPARING (Cameraman pulay on Banaue Rice terraces).

Assumption College wins marketing contest

ASSUMPTION COLLEGE (AC) was adjudged Champion at the Philippine Marketing Educators' Association (Pmea) 6th Integrated Marketing Competition (IMC), besting entries from some of the country's biggest universities and colleges.

Based on the training provided by the country's most progressive school for women, junior Hack MA from the Mario Ingrassia Institute for Innovative Learning developed a full-fledged campaign that placed the theme "Transforming for the Global Force." The school was represented by Camille Flores, Izzy Advincula, Gladys Lawrence, Cleo Cot, and Monica Sioson. The group's effort was awarded the most significant point among the finalists during the championship. Also, AC has been consistently spoiling for the finals in the past three years.

"This is recognition of what our girls are capable of doing," remarked AC president Sister Gertrude Bueno. The Pmea was chosen because yet another honors year for the college, whose students also topped honors in athletics, were recognized by student council leadership, and scored 100 percent in the Licensure Examination for Teachers Elementary Level. "This title was given to us for a reason," she added, referring to the school's upcoming 60th anniversary. This 2005, Assumption College will celebrate its 50th year although Assumption has been in the Philippines for over a hundred years, with new projects to further strengthen its academic programs and curriculum to meet high standards for globally competitive. Recognized by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) as one of the top ten learning institutions in the country, Assumption College is known to produce over 1,000 high caliber graduates each year. Besides academics, but also the most successful business owners and educators.

Committed to develop bright young women into leaders, AC opens its doors once more to the new high school year 2004-2005. On Jan. 26, it will conduct its Open House event to provide prospective students a grand first experience of the school. Open to female high school seniors, the Open House event will include a guided tour of the facilities, parents' orientation, opportunity for consultations, and free qualifying exams for the first 300 registrants, with the results revealed at the same day. There will also be free graduation passes and passes. To inquire or register, contact the College Admissions Office at (+632) 812 2000 or e-mail admissions@assumption.edu.ph before Jan. 28.

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GET YOUR COPY AT THESE BRANCHES:

Sunday BIZ

PLANTING of Kammoo palay at Barrio Buguinsan, Mountain Province.

Highland rice varieties target global markets

Demand seen to revitalize heirloom rice production

By Dolmar Cortez
Inquirer Northern Luzon

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—More indigenous rice varieties of the Cordillera are expected to be shipped abroad this year to meet the growing demand for traditional and native staples in the international market.

The Cordillera Heirloom Rice Project (CHRP), which brought Kalinga's unsung and Ifugao's treasure rice varieties to the United States two years ago, plans to export seven highland rice varieties from Mountain Province.

The Department of Agriculture and the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) in the Cordillera are content that the CHRP has considered the production of the following heirloom types from Mountain Province: ampawi red, sanyew white, kammoo, minsly, ginaler or unld, kaon and pinukis.

These varieties grow in the rice fields of Bontoc, Sagada, Barlias, Bauko, Natonin and Sadanga towns.

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Sunday LIFESTYLE
Editor Cherie Bautista Fernandez

1TH PLACER Amanda Carpo and Polo runner @ Ok Ocampo with three Baryan runners, including winner Hillary Lagat with his trophy

STYLISH Polo Tinanommen Buan Steven

FASHION pictorial at the finish line

HAPPY 10K finishers Leica and Chenica Carpo with Sea Princess

Racing for fun, pampering and a yummy lunch

YOGA guys Ting Feliciano and Ali Guberg

42K abs Brothers Amanda Carpo and Jun-jun Rufino

TESSA! Tessa Prieto-Valdes

FORTUNATELY EARPHONES, CHECK. RUNNING cap, check. Neon-trimmed bike shorts and matching outfit, check. Bronzer-tinted Oakley shades, check. Clarins moisturizer SPF sunscreen and Attitude Oceanal scented lotion, check.

Despite aware of my bone head's reminders to wind a December lilt, I was ready to ride on the First Clark Freeport International Marathon. This was my first running competition and it involved deciding what to wear and ranges from the FOR category I had entered. But there I was, mentally ready to 6 a.m. last Sunday.

Organized by Clark Development Corp., in partnership with Accelerada and ABS-CBN Sports, the marathon race in Clark Field, Pampanga, had three categories—42K, 10K and 5K. It was impressive that there were international runners from Kenya, that lubbed lanzi of gazelle-like humans, entered in the 42K.

Packing the time limit to reach Clark, my super chic roomie Leica and Frenchman Casper, yoga buddy Bonnie Erica and I had a breakfast of eggs and oatmeal in our car en route to Clark.

My running savvied runners are no wherber that was a midnight snack or what, as I had gone to bed very late after the birthday party of Miss Tadioan's Glad Angeles.

Hint has a lot to celebrate as her business has taken off, what with all her beautiful endeavors.

Last year, I had planned to do the 10K while Marathon and started training with mega triathlete Ian de Leon, but my plans were put on hold due to "Celebrity Dance," this is my running inspiration, as a bit wishbone rowers the distance from Manila to Baguio in a mix of swimming, biking and running.

Until I need to think most of us just run one our cheetah via the TV remote. Am still he at the Ironman in Langkawi, Malaysia, next month and has dedicated her race to raise funds for breast cancer

BACK TO C2

When the gun went off at the First Clark Freeport International Marathon, I was still trying to organize my race number and other paraphernalia

DANCER-Marikina Bermudo and running coach Ian de Leon

FASTEST lady Gilka Jim-ao Bonnyng

PAMPANAN! Oriental Spa therapist Maria Josefina Arcilla Lady May Lano

ALL READY for treatment at Mandarin Oriental Spa

GIKHAM yoga teacher Gloria Dyer

AMANDA Carpo

INSIDE Claudio Tayag's home

SEA Warren and Mel Tobias under ur Rolfe Quintero

MET Tobias owners Dai Papino and Fonzie Padilla

PRETTY Mes gals Dipsea Orvalos and Angelo de Leon

Racing for fun, pampering and a yummy lunch

Frontpage C1

PAOLO Velasco, Bevan Cruz, Leica Carpo, Tessa Valdez, Ana de Ocampo, Fabian Mangahas, Isamberg Lim Ocampo, Patrick Durante, Margo Carpo, Berto Feldaura, Cleresa Carpo, Alec Tio, Mary Ann Tayag, Rosa Serrano, Inigo de Leon, Cora de Ocampo, Luz de Ocampo, Jocelyn Valles, Amanda Carpo, Claudio Tayag

just at Avon Gabrillas.

It was 5:30 starting line, we saw the 42K runners, including PSI contributor Jessica Ballera, already at the finish of competition, having started at 4:45 a.m. With Clark's wide roads and scenic backdrop, the route was relatively flat—a big plus for first timers like me.

When the gun went off, I was still trying to organize my race number and other paraphernalia. There were a few more of us, expecting the 10k start, and I was still fiddling with my Nike+iPod, water bottle, power gel and Reebok phone. Don't all race runs make us worry these things?

Good shape

Into my stride the right running to complete, and I was glad that I was in good shape thanks to recent fitness classes with ingenious yet effective teacher Shonie Dyan. She has pushed me to program my boundless energy into proper breathing.

Although I still practice in Makati, at the studios of Pro Trainland and Fusion Chemo, I need that extra push and a lot of honest note that I am taking my health training seriously. At the Greenhills Studio of Al Walking, there is more the intensity that works a joke; making the poses and have more buttocks. Visit www.fusionspa.ph or call 7243050 for a studio near you or friendly.

As I neared the finish line, I could hear the band playing and a memorable of participants looming just the show area, I thought, I should oblige them with some waves and air kisses.

Later, when I changed the costumes were finishing for me, Secretary Hillary Lagat topped by winning his first 42K in 2:26.29! How coincidental!

But never mind. I finished in 332nd place, beating about 17 people in the 10K event. For checkers can audit this at www.takbonmarathon.com.

Artistic haven

My real motivation for joining the race, to be quite honest, was the post-race lunch. One group dared at Claudio Tayag's Bale Dutung inn. 045-4005301 and 0917-536-9180). The place was overlooked last but, (it) had a connection to the "chef" and had made the arrangements for event before. Claudio opened up his artistic home and gave us an outstanding gastronomic experience.

Bale Dutung is in Angeles City, just a short drive from Clark Field. We could've run another 5K there! Upon arrival we were greeted with frozen towels, just the perfect thing for a post-race cooler. Shortly after, Claudio's wife Mary Ann served us crepe (kind of crepes) filled with Claudio's Oriental Spice.

That started a veritable food marathon. From the Poke or Pickled-beef salad, native mushroom lunch, fried shredded chicken wrapped in whole wheat tortilla, fried rice (Bibis with Claudio's Bale Bale), have leaving eager and the rest of the camp mates look. cup iced clubes, the lunch buffet was well-catered and the delicious palette of the clients and nuances made all the delicious differences. (Claudio's recipes are available in all pamphlets unfortunately.)

Our group of hungry travelers from the Bale Dutung and others who came specifically for lunch only hardly had any space for dessert, off the selection. I liked the rebolleted with cucumber's milk. After all that food, we had hot pandesi tea to help digest us!

Luxurious body massage

My cousin, Amanda Carpo, was the ninth place lady finisher in the 42K and received all of us with her prize money. In turn, I treated her to a luxuriously relaxing Mandarin Oriental Spa body massage.

Nestling next to a traditional massage, my body required-balancing, remedial therapy and deep relaxation. So I avoided of Thai Ritual, a Mandarin signature treatment that is custom-designed to the body's needs.

My Mandarin Oriental spa marathon ended with the Indulgent Four Therapy; my therapist Maria soaked my feet with medicated herbs and stimulated the feet's nerve endings with two sticks. After an hour of just concentrating on the feet, I had the Therapeutic Hilot Massage. The one-and-a-half-hour long healing treatment is customized toward specific areas of imbalance in the body using a combination of strokes and by relieving stress and creating balance in energy.

With Continental Asian reading as late at 1 a.m., Mandarin Oriental Spa is one of the best in the city. Log on to www.mandarinoriental.com or call 7500088 for appointments.

Yes, a healthy life can be fun! A rough day for work warrant just like lunch at Bale Dutung and a massage at Mandarin Spa, a nice roll was the running spirit!

E-mail me at jessjessmail@inquirer.com.ph

CEBU CEBU
Jaime Pimentel

Top travel agents in the south honored

SUZETTE Gabalina, Rowena Mijares, Robin Sanchez-Ibe, Margot Fortaleza Barba, Rose Villarba, Rowena Jane Garcia and Mary Rose Macapagal

QATAR AIRWAYS HONORED TOP producing travel agents in the Visayas and Mindanao with an elegant formal dinner at the Hotel Dulce on the Shangri-La's Mactan Island Resort. Present was Khalid Ibrahim Ahmed Ibrahim Al Qaed, Qatar's area manager for the Philippines and Micronesia.

Robin acknowledged the recipient from Southern Philippines. Dr. and Qatar Airways was one of the few in the world to be rated as five-star. He also recognized Qatar's five-star record above eight million passengers yearly and, in the process, earned numerous international awards.

The program started early as airport customs manager Cecile Rodriguez, medical officer Jose Quiambao, hailed to rush to the airport for an incoming, and subsequently departing, Doha flight.

Jane Brigden Uy passenger sales executive, introduced Mary Rose C. Hinampad, the resident's director of sales and marketing who had hosted to Cebu for over a year now. Tall, pretty and willowy, Mary Rose is an alumna of the Assumption Convent. She started her career in the hotel industry.

"Mapang-galos kaayong serbisyo," she greeted the audience in Cebuano, and everyone loudly applauded. She said it was the first time a recognition event was held in Southern Philippines since Qatar Airways started flights from Doha to Cebu in December 2003.

Qatar Airways has three weekly flights to Cebu, and nine to Manila. The airline flies to 81 destinations around the world. There are plans to expand services in the Visayas in the future. "You'll be the first to know," said Mary Rose with a smile.

Overseas Filipino workers get very good deals from Qatar Airways. Its do-it-yourselves, pilgrims and travelers to go round. Passengers from the Visayas have proudly established ties to the attractive rates and excellent customer care by calling on their Middle East and Europe.

The benchmark for Qatar Airways in 2005 was notice to two cities in the United States of America: Dulles Flights to Washington DC, and thrice weekly to Newark to New Jersey, established as a West Side gateway. Boston may be added this year.

There has also been a marked increase of travelers from the Visayas to Qatar Airways' Business Class. A recent season is the attractive package this Asia that Doha offers to clubs of the air. Persistent Treatment for the exclusive use of first- and business-class passengers.

"This event is an appreciation of all of you," reminded Mary Rose, citing travel agencies and Travel Mates Cebu Inc. from all over Davao, Iloilo, Bacolod, Tacloban, Tagbilaran, Oroquieta, Zamboanga, Cagayan de Oro and Dumaguete.

Then the awards went fairly unannounced. Top non-IATA Gold awardees was Mabuhay Travel, with All Travel & Tours as runner-up. Top agent for Southern Philippines was Temesis of Davao.

Citations were given to Island Hopa, represented by Baby Uy; Blue Horizon, by Cecile Sy; and Jessica Dumaya Sun Travel, by Annette Llanos; Global Link, by teachers and many Uy.

Among the IATA travel agents, the Gold award went to Dermina Inter Specialists, represented by Rose and Margot Mijares and their top executives—Suzette Gabalina, Rowena Mijares, and Jane Garcia.

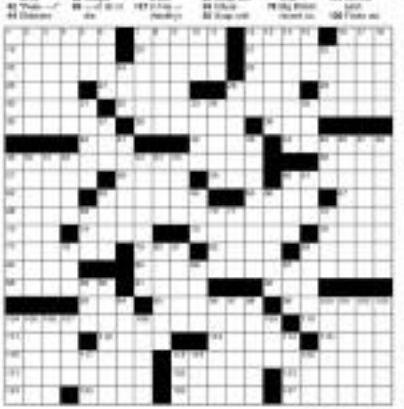
The silver award went to Seashine and was collected by Cecilia Elizo, while the bronze award went to Cebu Partner Travel, represented by Bebe Ty.

Program highlights included a performance by Bisdakonyan by the people of the Qatar Airways service who did and sang by Lolo Mijares, who hails from Bohol.

Qatar Airways staff members present that evening included Gabriel Hendrix, senior marketing and pricing agent Ms. Lolos Mirbert, senior Ms. Melanie Tomas, sales agent, and her front-desk companions Cheryl Amanda, Jocelyn Godin and Janice Godin.

Also present were Brad Mac Grana, secretary, Edgar Gaydentan, Mr. Mercedes Domingo, Sandra Pascua, Chairman Per Berger and Mitra Thys from the finance department. Aimed Abrahada, Sarmanda Rhoan and Wilfredo Mahinay from airport-based services.

LEISH Michael, Lovelyn Godin, Hazel Mae Castro, Gidget Mizarin, Jane Neighes Uy and Macapagal



answer on page C14

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Fred A. Longo — THE SAME

ACROSS
1 Dangerous outlook
7 Bedtime request
11 Fish that wiggles
14 — Jim
15 Jacket piece
16 Bumbler
17 Pitcher's problem
18 "Hey, fancy Thomas" remark
19 Full of answers
20 French friends
21 Hide-a-wee
22 Bellyful
23 Robust character
24 Wrench inventor
25 Impressionable
26 Hairy chapter
27 Tiny Tim's dad
28 Bedtime story start
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31 Author of the "Odyssey"
33 Pharaonic
34 Tiny Tim's brother
35 Tiny Tim's mother
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Wonder shopping card

Text by Blanca Consunji
Photos by Ryan Fernandez
Contributors

MasterCard, together with Banco de Oro, has launched the new PayPass card, a debit card that is designed especially for small, on-the-go purchases

PIZZA guests went to different stores, buying items from different establishments in the shortest time possible.

CHRIS Perales, VP for Acceptance and Member Relations for Mastercard

THE TROUBLE WITH PURchasing low-value items—like a drink, newspaper or cookie—is that you always have to bring small change with you.

So you're forced to either go around with a pocketful of coins or make change for large denominations.

For ladies who carry around small purses or men who don't want to lug around the extra weight in their pockets, this can be a bit of a problem.

While regular credit and debit cards are convenient, they don't allow you to pay for low-value items. More often than not, you end up spending more than you actually wanted whenever you have to pay with plastic just to meet the minimum purchase requirement.

But if MasterCard has anything to say about it, all those problems will soon be a thing of the past. MasterCard, together with Banco de Oro, has launched the new PayPass card, a debit card that is designed especially for small, on-the-go purchases.

Innovative

It uses an innovative "tap and go" technology (as opposed to the conventional swipe and/or regular cards) to make purchasing items a breeze.

"The MasterCard PayPass contactless payment solution demonstrates our commitment to develop new technologies that are relevant to the changing needs of the payment industry," said Ruth Vella Reid, vice president and senior country manager of MasterCard International, Philippines.

Host establishments such as coffee shops, fast-food restaurants, bookstores, record bars, movie theaters and bowling alleys, the PayPass card is used to pay for items simply by tapping on the card reader in the store. The card uses a radio frequency antenna to communicate with the unit, allowing for a speedier, easier transaction—no need to fuss with coins, bare bills or swiping machines.

The technology is similar to those found in subway stations in other countries, such as Hong Kong which has the Octopus card.

At the MasterCard PayPass launch held recently in the Nightlands Steakhouse at the SM Mall of Asia, guests were invited to try out the cards for themselves through a shopping race around the mall.

Media guests went to different stores, buying items from different establishments in the shortest time possible.

The list of establishments that offer PayPass payments include familiar names such as Powerbooks, Krispy Kreme, Wendy's, Aji Ichiban, St. Paul Restaurant, Boni Cuddles and The Coca Shop, among others.

Some stores accept payments of as low as P5 per transaction, while a few have a minimum purchase requirement of P50.

According to Annie Garcia, head of SM Supermalls, the card is an innovation towards making shopping easier for customers.

"One mall shoppers will no longer have to fumble for cash or wait for change at the counters," she said. "At the same time, the PayPass guarantees a smooth and efficient processing of payments for our merchants."

E-mail the author at bconsunji@yahoo.com

ROOTS AND WINGS
Cathy Rubio-Gubaltan

How to keep the music playing

RENE AND ELSIE DEL ROSARIO, who celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary recently, are what I would call the ultimate power couple in the area of work and home life balance.

At some point in their lives, Rene and Elsie were at full throttle in their high-powered careers—he as president of Monsanto and she as vice president for operations research at San Miguel Corp.

A few years ago, they both opted to retire. They have now managed to make the second half of their lives even richer and more creative.

Their products of the Philippine Science High School (PSHS) and the University of the Philippines set up a foundation that aims to improve the standard of education in our public school system.

Excellence has always been a part of the Del Rosario way of life. Their children are the best examples of a fully engaged parenting style.

Ben, who graduated summa cum laude from Georgia Tech last year, chose to come home. He now works for a Japanese multinational corporation.

Cristina is a sophomore at Georgia Tech, while younger child Frances is a sophomore at the PSHS.

Though grown, play a huge role in the success of the Del Rosario kids. they were also nurtured and loved unconditionally.

At the anniversary reception, when Frances spoke of how Elsie patiently laid out all his assignments and studied each one with him, you could see help but be amazed at how she, then a top executive of San Miguel Corp., managed to create precious study-home harmony.

Stories of how Ben, a computer prodigy, took time to read each night to a 10-year-old Rene was enough to leave many mothers [myself included] in the audience, in awe.

Ben says he does not know the secret to a successful marriage. "If people want to consider [our] marriage a success, well and good. I suspect the true material must be there" adding a union will break apart if one or both partners are proud, mean, unforgiving, unresponsive, unloving, unloving, contractive, insensitive.

For those contemplating marriage, his sage advice is this: "You have to choose your potential partner wisely [and] not be swayed by beauty of face or figure alone but [by] the beauty of the person inside-out. You to be not impressed by the charts, grace, wit and unconventional humor of your date. Think if you can get along with the person if you reverse's in love with him or her."

He says this or to be smart be a good, decent person. "Honesty goes both ways. You must be convinced that you will or is to make a good lifelong mate... to me the most important factor is how much effort goes into sustaining the union. The moment one or both of you take the relationship for granted, then you start down the slippery slope."

Raising the bar

After 25 years, it is easy to see that being real Elsie remains in to love and involved in each other's lives. They value Dr fun for other couples about to mark their silver jubilee.

Sing says, especially after the old three some, a couple must be vigilant in maintaining and enlarging the relationship.

"It's really the little things—holding hands, hugs, kisses, listening well, giving in, nice surprises, no-occasion presents, giving flowers and cards on birthdays and anniversaries, holding the sympathetic shoulder even if you have [your own problems], never criticizing publicly, defending your partner and close, crying hard to like your do here, giving along with your partner's friends—that sustain it."

But the Del Rosarios humbly admit they do not know if there is a secret formula to their marriage/parenting.

Ling emphasizes the importance of "talking one's talk."

"Parents will never get it completely right. And much of it depends on the raw material. And, even then, there are classmates and friends who could exert a major influence on the values of your children. But good parents keep trying and never give up.

STAND BY ME. Bing and Elsie del Rosario mark their silver jubilee as a couple.

"They consciously maintain time apart with their children and strive to make sure it's quality time. And we're big on the importance of setting the example, because children will learn and internalize what they see from their parents, not what their parents tell them."

Here are some time-tested values that Bing and Elsie continue to practice in their family and professional life.

Ability, performance, work quality and self-assurance of full potential. Plan, keep the end in mind. Don't be part of the problem, solve the problem. Be resourceful. Think out of the box. Appreciate quiet self, smarts, savvy and broad view. Develop and trust your instincts, quick judgments, fine impressions. Have the passion for the work or quit. Keep a good perspective—aka The Big Picture. Achieve perfection through practice.

Integrity, sincerity, principle. Don't fake it, value genuineness. Don't cut corners in social norms for convenience's sake. Observe consistency and follow through, no wings open or flash to a pan. Pay back what you owe and return what you borrow. A promise made is a promise kept.

Generosity, empathy, social consciousness. Be a man or woman for others. It's always better to give than to receive. Be liberal with praise. Help the little people. Practice kindness and inner goodness always.

Fun and humor in daily life. Create fun moments, discover new things, are their humorous side. Let's do something different that will remember forever. Bonding moments even more ones that last.

Humility, modesty, simplicity. I don't need too many things cluttering my life. Stressed to not my or your own turn. And don't exaggerate. Better to be asked to the head of table than to be asked to move further down. Don't fly too high, so you don't fall so hard.

Family, loyalty, solidarity, fulfillment for family and friends. Create annual family events, weekends, summer, holidays, leisure. It's okay to publicly demonstrate affection and caring for family. Stay in touch (e-mail, mobile, text, phone or lunch dates). Be there. It's 'til death do us part' (my spouse is my lover, best friend, comrade in arms). Even if I didn't choose you, I'll always be here for you.

Caution, prudence, financial independence. Don't gamble or take unnecessary risks. Live below your means, no need to keep up with the Joneses. Forego high-risk short-term gains for long-term benefits. You need to have the ability to walk away any time.

E-mail the author at cathyltalan@gmail.com

PURELY PERSONAL
Josephine Duruog

Sto. Niño feast today

THE FILIPINOS' LOVE AND DEvotion to the Christ Child is phenomenal. This will again be manifested today when churches in every town and city hold Masses and processions.

In Cebu City, people will hear Mass at the Pilgrim Center across the Basilica de Sto. Niño while others will light candles in the church or touch the image.

Tabuenon and guests will then dance the "Sinulog" to the beat of drums and shouts of "Pit Senyor! Viva Sto. Niño!" Going to Cebu for the Fiesta is a pursuit for devotees wishing to thank Him for answered prayers.

Historical accounts say before Ferdinand Magellan arrived in Cebu in 1521, Sinulog was danced by the natives in honor of wooden idols and not the Child Jesus.

Magellan introduced Christianity giving the Sto. Niño as a baptismal gift to Hara Amihan, wife of Cebu's Rajah Humabon and who became Queen Juana.

Resting the 44 years between the coming of Magellan and Legazpi, no one danced the Sinulog but this time as a sign of reverence to the Sto. Niño, who is now enshrined in the San Agustin Church. The church later became the Basilica Minore del Sto. Niño.

Procession

The Congregacion del Santissimo Nombre del Niño Jesus will hold its 20th grand procession of or Jesus 400 Sto. Niño shapes on Jan. 27, at 3 p.m. The procession will begin at the Philcoko Center on Roxas Boulevard and end at the Quirino Grandstand.

The procession highlights the Fiesta del Sto. Niño 2000 that opened Jan. 17 with an exhibit and Holy Mass at the PSE Financial Center. Exhibit hours are 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Novena Masses are at 7 p.m.

Reciting priest Fr. Fernando Suarez will visit the exhibit 1-3 p.m. Showing the exhibit are Stella Chan (for Stephanie Ruby Miranda, president Jing Chua, chair; Ben Bayuko, founding chair; and members of the board.

Anniversary

Devotees of Sta. Niño de Paranaque will attend the 16th anniversary of the 1992 miracle when the image of the Christ Child began sweating oil. Holy Mass will be celebrated at the Mary Mother of the Church Parish Jan. 28, 3 p.m. The chapel is 61 Pijan St., BF Resort Village. Las Piñas will be open at 7 a.m.

Parish anniversary

Antipolo Bishop Gabriel Reyes officiated at the concelebrated Mass marking the 50th anniversary of the Immaculate Conception Parish in Bayan Bayanan avenue in Marikina on Dec. 8, feast of the Immaculate Conception. Co-celebrants were Fr. Ben Guevara, parish priest, and other priests of the diocese.

Spearheading the event was the comite de damas, headed by president Antonio E. Andres, Sr.

Devotees Masses were celebrated for Fr. Anton Pascual, Fr. Arlo Yap, Fr. Mario Solenzuzuela, Msgr. Galileo Wenger and Fr. Larry Serano, among others.

Homecoming

The University of Santo Tomas Alumni of Priests Association will hold its 74th alumni homecoming Jan. 22-23, at the UST Central Seminary Building, Manila. Theme is "Permanent Priests: Men of Environmental Learning, Models of Moral Integrity."

Guest speakers Fr. Eduardo Panlilio, governor of Pampanga; John Baptist Lee Kyu Shim, bishop of Daejeon, Taejeon will discuss the two-fold vision of UST for the 2011 Quadricentennial Celebration.

This year's reunion will be hosted by Class 1960 led by Fr. Victor Bonifacio of the Archdiocese of Capiz.

Confab on religion

UST will host "Religion and the Formation of New Order: A Mid-Term International Conference," Jan. 23-26, at the Thomas Aquinas Research Complex, UST campus.

Speakers include Bryan S. Turner of the National University of Singapore; Amarjiva Lochan of the South and Southeast Asian Association for the Study of Religion and Culture; Rana P. B. Singh of Banaras Hindu University, India; and Sean Mcgo of Queen's University Canada.

UST Rector Magnificus and former Commissioner on Higher Education Dan Fr. Rolando V. de la Rosa, OP will give a special message.

Call the UST Institute of Religion at 731-4301 or 406-1611 local 8256.

Papal award

Pope Benedict XVI will confer, through Papal Nuncio Edward Joseph Adams and Archbishop Oscalado Fabayan, the papal award Ensue of St. Sylvester on entrepreneur and civic leader Petronia Bicol Limcaoco Jan. 26, 6 p.m., at the Sanctuario de San Antonio Church.

The awardee is an active officer of the Dreamers of the Nuestra Señora de Paz Foundation that is helping build a retirement home for priests in Tagaytay Valley.

Fiesta

Fr. Arturo Sebastian, parish priest of the Sacred Heart Church in Pinaud, Bulacan, is this year's honoree master of the fiesta of San Ildefonso on Jan. 23.

Malolos Bishop Jose Oliveros will say the fiesta Mass. Fr. Johnny, as only child, was canonized after his mother prayed to San Ildefonso.

Relic

Sta. Teresita del Niño Jesus Parish will welcome the relic of St. Therese of the Child Jesus on Jan. 27, 9 a.m. A High Mass will be celebrated by Fr. Tito de los Santos, OSMAgu, followed by benediction.

Veneration is 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Confession will be 2-4:30 p.m. Sinulog Mass will be at 5 p.m.

Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and group photo or along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the Features, PO. Box 2333 Makati Central Post Office 1261 Makati City. E-mail to features@philstar.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.

MIRANDA-MACAPUGAY

Julius Miranda, son of Wilfredo and Angelita Miranda, will wed Agnes Macapugay, daughter of Dwight and Avelina Bluebell Macapugay, on Jan. 28 at the Archdiocesan Shrine of St. Jude in San Miguel, Manila. **Eric Pineda** designed the bride's gown using ivory bridal satin and serpentine silhouette. The bodice is embellished with cotton beads, faux pearls and embossed paillettes while the low-cut back is accented by a bouquet of hand-made calalilage roses and pleated petals. The female entourage will wear chiffon peregrine gowns in lemon yellow and cheesecream. Reception will follow at the Promenade Ballroom, E-Hotel Manila.

MARE-LANGAN-CAMILO

Marvin Mafelangan, son of Manito and Sally Mafelangan, will wed **Vilreen Camilo**, daughter of Mayor and Rosella Camilo, on Jan. 28, at the National Shrine of Good Voyage, Antipolo City. Reception will follow at Alta Vista Club House (Arenajan Catering), Antipolo City.

OLIVEROS-MAGLALANG

Pierre Enrique T. Oliveros, son of engineer Felipe and Gloria Oliveros, exchanged vows with **Maria Magdalena Mauh. C. Maglalang**, daughter of Dominggo and Emma Maglalang, at the Basilica of San Sebastian, San Diego del Carmen, Quiapo, Manila. Reception followed at Balandra de San Diego, Intramuros, Manila.

80TH BIRTHDAY

Purita Sunas Belvestre who celebrates her 80th birthday on Jan. 28 at the Greenhughes Village Clubhouse. The party was organized by her children **Marilyn, Marion and Marlon**.

REBUYON-YEE

Glen Luciano Rebuyon, son of Renato and Rosita Rebuyon of Tagum City, will wed **Shalimarie Estimario Yee**, daughter of Angelo and Debbie Bee of Compostela Valley, on March 4, 4 p.m., at the River Christ the King Cathedral, Tagum City. The bridal gown is designed by Sunn Pereyes Bridal Gallery. Reception will follow at CAP Auditorium, Tagum City.

RAMOS-DE GUZMAN

Richard Ramos and **Jeanine de Guzman** tied the knot recently at St. Andrews Cathedral, Pandacan. Reception followed at the Heritage Hotel. The bride's gown was done by **Edward Tang**.

URBANES-ANGELES

Ethel Urbanes, son of Florido and Lucia Urbanes, wed recently Nelsel Angeles, daughter of Demetrio and Lourdes Angeles, at Holy the Queen Church in Greenhills, San Juan. Bishop Leopoldo Jimenez of Bangued, Abra officiated at the wedding.

MARQUESES-CRUZ

Sheen M. Marqueses, son of Angel and Elcan Marqueses, wed recently Ivan Cruz, daughter of engineer Edito and Carina (deceased) Cruz, at Our Lady of the Abandoned Church. Reception was held at Wood Bridge Gardens.

McDonald's boosts expansion plans

The McDonald's brand is now more convenient to its market as it already serves 24 hours a day and more accessible through its Drive Thru and 8McDo Delivery Service.

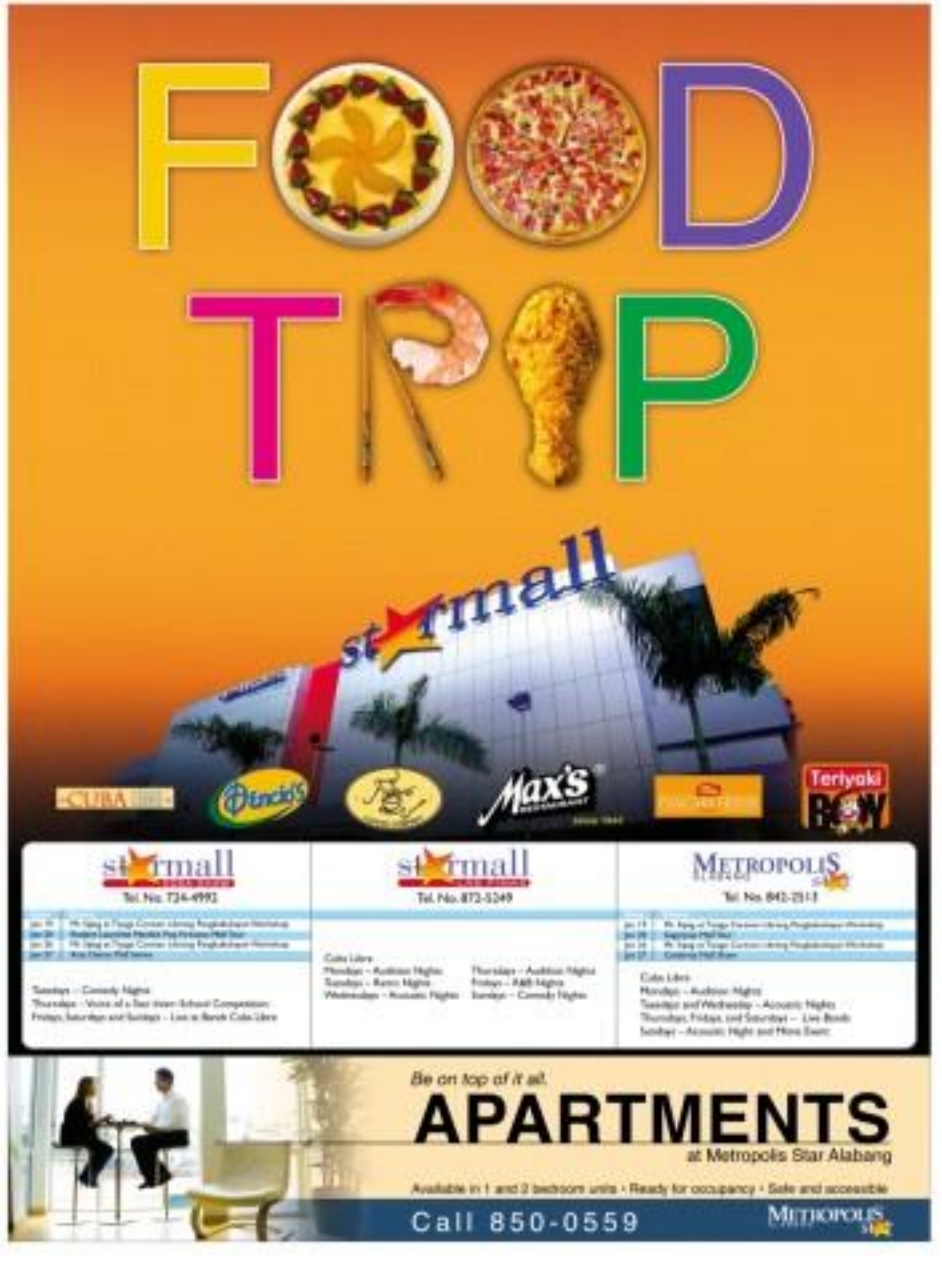
New Stores include: Robinson's Place Pioneer, SM City Muntinlupa, 168 Mall Divisoria, Cebu Escario, 365 Plaza San Nicolas, Imus Cavite, Sta. Maria Bulacan, Trinoma M1, Trinoma M4, Fort Bonifacio 32nd Street, SM City Bacolod, TM Kalaw, Dumaguete City and Olongapo Magsaysay among others.

Sunday LIFESTYLE Travel

City of the "Fountain of Youth"

Spanish conquistador Ponce de Leon's quest for the elixir of life brought him to St. Augustine, now a scenic city on the northeastern coast of Florida.

INTRAMUROS is considered to be, but Cuadro de San Marcos, a former Spanish fortress in St. Augustine, Florida, uses looks a lot like our very own walled city.



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Thursdays – Voice of a Star (Inter-School Competition)
Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays – Live at Bands Cuba Libre

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Thursdays – Audition Nights
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Sundays – Comedy Nights

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VISITORS on the Philippine booth sample some chichirya from the north.

HIMAGTAW Cultural Dance Troupe's repertoire includes rarely seen dances from Mindanao.

GUESTS check out handicraft brought to the travel exchange by the RP delegation.

'Same difference' is a tourist come-on for RP in BIMP-EAGA

Use 1 and phrase by Linda B. Bohlo

IT SEEMED AT FIRST LIKE trying to sell ice to Eskimos.

As participants in the 3rd BIMP-EAGA (Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines East Asean Growth Area) Travel Exchange stood side by side, one wondered why they would want to go visiting each other.

Sarawak Chief Minister Pehin Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud, who officially opened the four-day travel exchange, pointed out, the four countries had "a lot of similarities in history, a common cultural heritage" and they "shared a feeling of being part of a common borderless cultural area."

Indeed, they all looked so much alike. The Philippine brought dancers who were dressed in a manner identical to what other BIMP-EAGA members wore. Even the dances and the traditional music, as it turned out, were very similar to the ones evident in the cultural communities of the Caribbean and Cagayan.

So why tell the Philippines to people who seem to have the same things to offer?

Inviting family

The Department of Tourism's participation in the travel exchange in Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia, was really not as much an attempt to sell the Philippines in a bunch of strangers but more like extending an invitation to family to come and visit to see how things have remained the same and also have changed.

It was an invitation to reconnect, to strengthen old links, catch up on each other's news. Much like large families unavoidably separated by geography and adopting to different conditions and challenges, the BIMP-EAGA members, while sharing the same beginnings, have developed in different ways, thus they are offering each other something similar and also something unique.

Dessey Sycamat-Arao, the travel exchange's theme, showcased cultural communities, historical bonds as well as outstanding differences all packaged to whet the curiosity of trade fair guests and encourage them to visit.

While all four countries offered culture, adventure, and natural attractions, they also stressed that they had sights and celebrations that were unique to them and not like those of the others.

Sarawak, for instance, the Malaysian island also known for its biodiversity and rich natural resources, including oil, boasted of the orangutan, among others. Darussalam, on the other hand, took pride in the Philippine eagle, probably the world's largest.

CHIEF Minister Pehin Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud

Inviting members of the subregional trade grouping to travel to the Philippines is more like asking relatives to make a long-overdue visit

AZELS dancers do the Singkil, a fitting highlight of the cultural show.

HIMAGTAW Dance Troupe members remain in character even when taking a break.

DESIGNERS Ramon Salud and indigenous blanket for his fashion show.

Showcase

The four-day event was an opportunity for each member country to showcase its rich culture and traditions. Blades in origin but influenced by factors unique to them, both indigenous and foreign.

Mayor Fernando Q. Miguel of Koronadal City brought the Silanguyan Cultural Dance Troupe that performed sarbayan dances from the cultural communities of the T'boli-lumads just north and south of Mindanao. The costumes left no doubt just how closely linked the BIMP-EAGA countries were to each other.

Such strong similarities were reinforced in the presentation of apparel using Philippine fabrics by designer Renee Salud who, while from Malaysian ancestry, was featured in a fashion show that capped the travel exchange. Showcasing native wisteria like Ginabal, Jusi, piña and Jusi, the presentation zoomed in on the common origins of the fabrics and the designer's shared artistic sensibilities.

From the Filipino songs rendered by Regine Hadig Gay Government Employee Singing Society's band echoes in the music of the other countries.

To drive home the point that the Philippines would like to trade exchange participants and guests to visit, the different DOT regional directors and representatives of local governments, tourism councils, travel agencies, resorts, and others set aside one afternoon to present the country's various selling points as a travel destination.

DOT's Team Asia Pacific also used the travel exchange to show the Philippines' support for BIMP-EAGA tourism promotional efforts, as expressed by Tourism Secretary Joseph "Ace" Durano.

Durano wants to position the Philippines outside BIMP-EAGA as a gateway to the subregion.

As part of this effort, the Philippine Tourism Council and the Inchcape Tourism Federation signed during the event a memorandum of understanding to collaborate in tourism plans and programs.

THE PHILIPPINE booth featured products made from Mindanao and Palawan.

THE PHILIPPINE delegation with the Himagtaw Dance Troupe.

TRAVEL BRIEFS

Culinary tour

Inscribe Tours is organizing "A Taste of Portugese Cuisine and Culture" tour for Feb. 3. The tour starts with breakfast at embarcadero, proceeds to coffee and food article in Mexico before proceeding to the 18th century Metropolitan Cathedral of San Fernando. Arnold to Bello Crafts in Binondo follows. The tour also stops at La Mode na Bata for lunch. Lunch will be at Everybody's Cafe then the group proceeds to Holy Angel University's Center for Research and Culture. After a brief stopover at Souter's Cuisine, the group then goes to the new Roxas Filipino st.

Clark Expo. Inscribe Tours is also organizing a Yogurt tour Jan. 26-27. (632) 521-8370, 8370.

Singapore-Moscow flights go daily

Singapore Airlines will increase frequency on the Singapore-Moscow route to daily starting March 28. The existing three-times-weekly service via Dubai will be complemented with a four-times-weekly nonstop service (selected business class seats in a two-cabin, two-class configuration) on the new generation cabin providing access all three classes. The new nonstop flight will operate every Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday, with a stopping departure and afternoon arrival into Moscow. This return journey will operate via Dubai from Moscow on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, while the nonstop flight will depart in the late evening on the other days, serving two Singapore late this following morning. For flight bookings and other information, call 7969999 (Manila), 2308211 (Cebu), 2264608 (Davao) or log on to singaporeair.com.

Fun with Mickey and Minnie

DISNEY FANS RECENTLY WENT to the Ayala Center to join special contests and have their pictures taken for free with Mickey and Minnie Mouse. At All Mall and Gateway Mall, kids and their parents were treated to toys and free rakhes to "Disney on Ice: Mickey and Minnie's Amazing Journey." The classic cartoon couple also graced an event for the ice show's various sponsors and their families later that day at Cinema 3, Gateway Cineplex. "Disney on Ice: Mickey and Minnie's Amazing Journey" runs until Jan. 27 at the Araneta Coliseum. The Philippine leg kicks off the much-anticipated show's Asian tour, according to Kris Chavelle, regional marketing director for Feld Entertainment, producers of the "Disney on Ice" line. "From we'll travel to Taiwan, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia."

SPONSORS together with their families had their photos taken with "Disney on Ice" stars Mickey and Minnie Mouse at the Gateway Cineplex.

Mickey and Minnie are the viewers personal tour guides. "They'll take you around the world without really leaving Manila," he adds.

"Disney on Ice" ticket prices are P1,340, P1,100, P800, P600, P350 and P250. For more details, call Ticketnet at 911-5555 or visit www.ticketnet.com.ph. For more information on the show, log on to www.disneyonice.com.ph.

IF YOU want to skip the city's tour trains, sightseeing via a horse-drawn carriage is a slower, more nostalgic way to take in the scenery.

THE CITY'S oldest drugstore still stands to this day, and has been converted to a museum.

ONE OF the city's last free-standing milk-mix adjacent to the famed Fountain of Youth.

City of the 'Fountain of Youth'

Text and photos by Alex F. Vroga o

IN AN IRONIC TWIST THAT could perhaps only happen in America, the country's oldest city now dangles the tantalizing possibility of keeping its future inhabitants forever young. And we're not referring to Los Angeles, home to countless "age-less" clinics that cater to America's rich and famous as well as the infamous.

Long before the likes of New York, Boston, Baltimore and Philadelphia became bastions of civilization in the New World, St. Augustine, a city in the southeastern coast of Florida, has been quietly carving out its place in history as history since 1565 under a succession of colonial rulers, wars, obstacles and epidemics.

Due to its storied past, it's not surprising to see traces of various influences today — from Spanish quarters to Victorian-inspired homes, from castle structures to Roman architecture — by what is otherwise a relatively small and scenic city that once enjoyed the distinction of being America's winter playground for the wealthy set during the turn of the 20th century.

St. Augustine's reputation as a "therapeut of the south" was further bolstered when railroad baron Henry Flagler developed the city's railroad system, ensuring easy access to its more populous and established cities in the north during the dying days of the 19th century.

In the city's heyday, it wasn't surprising to bump into politicians, tycoons, fame and celebrities of the day playing the role of winter birds hibernating from inclement and unfavorable environments in the Midwest and East Coast.

Also, with the advent of the jet age and the growth of such cities as Orlando, Fort Lauderdale, Miami and Key West further down south as well as the year-round availability of cruises to Mexico and the Caribbean, St. Augustine eventually lost its premier position as one of America's favorite winter havens.

Perfect foil

Reminders of its previous life can still be seen in a number of mansions and palatial hotels (pre-Marriott and -Holiday Inn chains, take note) that have been converted to museums, commercial spaces, government offices and even schools.

The huge Flagler School, for instance, once owned by Flagler himself, is now a liberal arts college that still carries the visionary's name. A number of buildings and houses that line major thoroughfares and even obscure roads have either been preserved or rebuilt, many of them following the Spanish Colonial-inspired style.

Despite the changes in its fortunes, however, the city has managed to remain a favorite tourist destination, luring Americans not only in the winter months. Indeed, apart from the city's colorful history, its idyllic charms provide a perfect foil and unanticipated break to the leisure hours being enjoyed by nearby Orlando visitors who have come by car and in numbers to theme parks.

And if you dig deeper into history books, St. Augustine's checkered past is far richer and more interesting than most American cities. And owing to its Spanish heritage, it does offer a dizzying combination to a wedded city in the Deep South that was once dubbed the most beautiful in Asia.

Of course, who hasn't heard about trusted Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de Leon and his legendary search for the so-called "Fountain of Youth?" According to popular lore, the supposed elixir of life had sent De Leon scurrying from Puerto Rico, where he was then the governor, to St. Augustine to reestablish Spain's presence there.

Besides earlier, his competitor, the Spanish admiral Pedro Menendez de Aviles founded a settlement in a sleepy coastal town fronting the Atlantic, since he sighted land on Aug. 28, feast day of St. Augustine of Hippo, he decided to name the place into Agustin and promptly claimed it for the Spanish crown.

Well, for all we know, De Leon's search for the legendary fountain might have been outweighed or at most Spain was there during a cot with England for dominion over a vast territory that literally comprised half the globe.

By having the first colonial power to reach, link a foothold in what would later be known as the United States, Spain was able to retain a tenure of vigor and vibrancy in its fledgling campaign. But as history have proved, it was almost in fleeting as the magnolia blossoms that line St. Augustine's many streets today.

But such was St. Augustine's strategic importance that the British, despite having established themselves in the East Coast (indeed, who can never have enough), tried in vain to snatch the treasure city on the south, not once but twice, from the clutches of the Spaniards sometime in the 17th century.

Well, if it worked in Manila and in other Spanish outposts, it also worked in St. Augustine. Although the British managed to burn the city to the ground, its government and a considerable number of inhabitants remained unscathed as they hailed down, either up in Castillo de San Marcos, a stone fortress similar to Intramuros.

When the Brits failed to take by force, they finally managed to get the castle a treaty. In fact, another treaty also curbed in Paris saw St. Augustine reverting back to the Spaniards sometime in the 15th century.

By then, the city as far as Spain was concerned, had started to lose its strategic importance. By the 19th century, the once mighty "Mistress of the Sea" founded St. Augustine and the rest of Florida without having to fire a single shot to an emerging power called the United States.

Historic stops

For a time, Florida, like Puerto Rico and Guam today, was a mere United States territory until it became a full-fledged state of the Union in 1845.

But unlike De Leon, you don't have to search far and wide in your quest for the Fountain of Youth.

It's actually one of 20 stops in a "hop-on, hop-off" tour of the city conducted by the Ripley's Lightseeing Train Tours. (A dual company that calls itself Old Town Trolley also offers similar tours.)

The one-hour, non-stop narrated train trip is one of the best ways to see the city for tourists in a hurry. Apart from the scenery and the amusing comments and snippets of history provided by its "engineer," the ride allows guests (\$11.9 per adult, \$6 per child) to get off at certain stops then wait to catch the next tram.

When you're through exploring, say the Ripley's Believe-or-Not Museum, passengers can simply wait at a designated stop until the next train comes along and continue with the tour. Trains ply the scenic route from 8 a.m. 5 p.m.

Since we took the last train of the day, we had no time to linger on any of the stops. But we were told that the area surrounding the supposed "fountain of youth" was once a farm planted to orange. Early settlers may have eventually succumbed to old age, but at least they probably didn't catch colds easily.

Other noteworthy stops along the way are, of course, the Castillo San Marcos (later renamed Fort Marion; Alligator Farm (although one Congress official once described it as "a mosquito-infested swamp"); Lightner Museum (formerly Hotel Alcazar); Zorayda Castle; Cathedral of St. Augustine; St. George Street; Mission de Nombre de Dios (where the tallest stainless steel cross in the Western Hemisphere is erected); and Our Lady of La Leche Shrine.

Although the St. Augustine Lighthouse and Museum isn't part of the ride, it pays to make a stop at the historic site first before exploring the rest of the city.

But things don't get real to a halt in the city after dark. In fact, a different, otherwise lily kind of journey is offered by Ripley's Ghost Trains (\$14 per adult, \$8 per child).

In lieu of the ubiquitous red-and-black locomotive that chugs along the city's streets during the day, an all-black, brass-like behemoth peopled with characters in eerie makeup and period costumes takes over.

Stops include cemeteries, haunted houses, alleys and corners where supposed ghostbusters are at the highest and most palpable."

Who knows? Or, a clear night in St. Augustine, one might even get a fleeting glimpse of the ghost of Ponce de Leon still in search of the elusive Fountain of Youth. But even Us or the Big Apple could top that.

THE LIGHTNER Museum and City Hall

THAT certainly don't make 'em like they used to.

THE CITY teems with buildings, such as this one-of-a-kind, done in the Spanish Colonial Revival style.

ST. AUGUSTINE Cathedral, the city's main Catholic place of worship.

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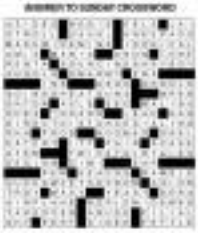

EMILY'S POST
Emily Marcelo

Torn between two loves

DEAR EMILY,

I am currently working overseas to support my family and my son back home.

I am so happy with my life because overseas love me so much despite the fact that I am a single mother and he is a certified bachelor.

We love each other so much that we are planning to get married after three years.

But my life changed when I met my former boyfriend. He is such a nice man and he is also working overseas to support his family. We have been communicating through e-mail and, eventually, we became lovers again.

I know it is wrong to be in love with another man when you are already committed. But I love this old boyfriend so much. I realized I did not love my current boyfriend anymore.

I am planning to tell him the truth but I do not know how. He is so loving and kind to me, and he is doing everything to keep in touch even if we are miles away from each other.

Now I am confused. I already told him about my past and he was willing to accept me and my son. But he does not have an idea about my boyfriend.

I am so afraid he will dump me if I tell him the truth.

EDNAH

Which family is this old boyfriend supporting—his wife and kids or just his parents and siblings? That is a very important question because you might be jumping from the frying pan to the fire if he is still married!

You are, of course, free as a bird and can have as many affairs as you want with whomever your heart desires.

But that is fair. And first things first. Get rid of one before falling head over heels with another.

Why complicate your life when you can make it so simple? You are single, remember? Just dump the one you do not love anymore and start with a clean slate with the one you love.

If this old boyfriend is truly and honestly in love with you and is "willing" to accept your kid, then, why the fear and the anguish about confessing another love—that you are also committed to another man?

Just make sure that when the time comes for your confession, you are already totally free, available and without encumbrance.

Otherwise, he will tell you exactly what I am saying—that you cannot have them both.

However, if this old boyfriend is still married and has no plans of leaving his wife, where does that leave you when you dump the unselfish husband who also loves you?

Decisions, decisions! Think hard, think deeply! Just do not end up being the loser.

E-mail the author at emarcelo@gmail.com.ph. Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to Inquirer, Org. at n.com.ph and listen to Bb Marcelo co-host the program 'Kalikasan Yig-lusin,' 7.15 -8.30 p.m., Monday-Friday on dwBB 864.3090.

Sunday LIFESTYLE Home

Light-and-shade minimalism

For businessman Regan Arcega, two things are non-negotiable about his new pad: its black and white color scheme and its Eastwood City location

GLASS TOPPED coffee table with adjustable (wicker) ends

Text by Alex T. Vergara
Photos by Rusty Pamilacion

WITH A DIZZYING ARRAY of options to choose from, the task of designing and retrofitting a brand new condo unit to one that suits your taste and lifestyle can, indeed, be a daunting task even to those with the wherewithal to achieve it.

Since he had a clear idea of what he wanted, businessman Regan Arcega was spared from making an endless series of footprinting decisions right from the start. He also had enough foresight to stock up on selected items and list down possible sources while he was still living with his family in Quezon City.

Of course, he could have simply sat down and left everything to his interior designers, but Arcega wanted to be part of the creative process. In the end, the team of Cynthia Teleñeman and Cherry Solano simply fell all the renderings and sourcing based on Arcega's ideas.

"I know next to nothing about interiors," says Arcega, who, together with friends Marcy Legarda, Ako Mohaddi, Nepi Hidrosa and several others, owns Tabo Bar in Makati Rahoolo corner Aguirre Streets and Club Malta in Malate. "I also wasn't sure if my ideas were dramatically sound."

No matter. With a family free from problematic details, the result is an ultra-modern one-bedroom pad in crisp black and white in the heart of Eastwood City in Libis. In keeping with the look, Arcega removed traditional use of mirrors, leather and streamlined accent pieces made primarily of crystal and glass.

In lieu of mirrors, Arcega opted for a series of black and white prints he bought from the United States via the Internet. After having one of them enlarged, he had all five prints framed and hung on the living room wall and receiving area.

"They're much more modest and go well with the rest of my stuff," he says. "Not that I own many items to begin with. The key to making the look work, especially in a small area like this, is to minimalize."

At first glance, the images in the photographs resemble rock formations. Upon further scanning, however, they're actually various parts of the male body—and it is toward one as that...

LIGHT AND SHADOW 02

AN Italian-made clock gets normal more for its appearance than for the time it tells.

EVEN lighting fixtures on the wall are covered in diffusers in black and white.

TRIANGULAR bedside clock with blue of blue, orange and green on its dial

Light-and-shade minimalism

From page E1

liquid pool of black and white, light and shade.

Lighting fixtures

Apart from imparting the unit with an illusion of space, a series of 10mm in ceiling recesses on one side of the living room and dining area succeeds in further brightening the place. And rightly so, as Arroga did many with oversized lighting fixtures in favor of pin lights and ceiling treatments he himself designed.

Arroga also designed the black-and-white sofa discussing designs. Each modular, big fold or section corresponds to a particular color, which, he says in amusement, neatly draws the seamstress crazy just to get each fold right.

"From what I was just planning on getting a sofa, two things were already non-negotiable," he says. "The sofa has to have modern interiors, preferably in black and white, and it should be located in Eastwood."

Arroga fell in love with Eastwood as early as the satellite city's salad days. For one, the area is just a few minutes' drive from Quezon City Hall, where his clients reside as executive assistant to Cagayan de Oro councilor.

It took him some time to get the right unit, in the area facing Eastwood itself were all two-bedroom affairs. Arroga found the extra bedroom superfluous. Also, the smaller, one-bedroom units were all facing Marikina.

Shooting perhaps the growing clamor of clients, especially swinging singles like Arroga, for one-bedroom units with a view of Eastwood, the community's developer started offering their own allot.

More Eastwood units with picturesque vistas are in the pipeline, as the executive Jersey has yet to ebb in this booming part of Quezon City.

Unconventional clock

As soon as he got what he wanted, there go, but no time wasting furniture and home stores all over Metro Manila. His re-newed search yielded, among other things, a glass-topped table with leather chairs and an Italian-made see-through clock that never fails to get noticed by first-time visitors—not for the time it tells, but for its unconventional style.

Instead of buying separates European-made furniture pieces, he commissioned

IN line of a headboard, the floating bed comes with a padded wall accent made of black leather

KITCHEN with dark countertops and mosaic tiles like for Arroga, who loves to cook and entertain friends

ARROGA puts the glass-topped dining table with black leather chairs centered on stainless steel trivet. Other noteworthy elements are the floor-to-ceiling mirrors and ceiling treatment he himself designed.

THE stark color contrast continues in the bathroom.

FRAMED prints feature parts of the male body

RECEIVING area features an enlarged framed print and hollow-made buffet table.

BATHROOM niche doubles as an open cabinet that features perfume and other grooming products with hints of bold colors via their labels.

Pet tentacles to design a black, monochromatic L-shaped sofa made of Indian leather for the living room. The same material is found in the bathroom in the form of a padded wall treatment located at the head of a custom-built floating bed.

Since he lives in cook, Arroga also paid close attention to the kitchen. In contrast to the all-white walls that make up the living room and dining area, the kitchen is clad in dark, nearly black countertops and tiles. The same mosaic-like tiles from Bisazza, which are reputedly the hero of its kind (at least in Metro Manila), also adorn parts of the bathroom.

"I've always been very organized, so moving to a minimalist unit with limited space wasn't a total shock to me," says Arroga. "And since you don't have plenty of space to begin with, you learn to be more judicious and discerning when it comes to stuff you buy. That's one thing I've learned from my mom."

In Arroga's case, he'd rather invest in a few expensive but exceptional pieces than buy small items that are cheaper by the dozen. In this pad's book, less is definitely much, much more.

Innovative mosaic tiles

BISAZZA, THE WORLD leader in innovative glass mosaic tiles, offers an extensive line of products.

Since its launch in the country in 2006, many architects and interior designers have related on the Italian company to create unique and exceptional interiors.

Some local establishments that use Bisazza tiles include Shangri-La Mactan Hotel, Subic Legends Hotel, Shang Grand Towers and Boracay and culinary restaurants in Seven-des.

Bisazza's team offers a to-fit service, Italy has it has branches in Australia, France, Hong Kong, India, Russia, Spain, United Kingdom and the United States, and a network of over 4,000 distributors worldwide.

Bisazza's products include glass mosaics in sheet formats and four typologies of finishes. It also manufactures specialty mosaics in 24-carat gold and multilayered vitreous glass finishes (hand-cut tiles with three-seams, a synthetic stone developed in-house).

Bisazza has developed a collection of slab products using glass agglomerates in its own wide-color palette to produce different format-style tiles.

Bisazza glass tiles are available in major Philippine cities. The company has showrooms at Wilcon Home Depot, Joi Rada and Tile Gallery (www.bisazza.com).

BISAZZA Showroom

THE FAMILY MEAL SAVES THE DAY!

Lucky Me! honors this nourishing tradition

The rest of the dinner table, the Family Ideal, has lost some of its luster after having been allowed to fall to the wayside; but something as important as this won't be put down for long. The nourishing tradition of eating together is making a comeback, and it's carving families around the globe.

Today's rapid-paced, technologically-driven society is fast becoming populated by typically hyperactive, overscheduled families whose day-to-day activities include everything else besides sharing a meal. Some may declare eating together a thing of the past, but these shared meals are linked to better nutrition, richer language development, better grades in school and closer ties to our families' heritage. At its best, it functions as an oasis during a hectic day – a time to destress, reconnect, laugh together and support each other.

Skeptics can raise any number of arguments but the results of studies done on the benefits of the family meal provide impressive proof. And a lot of it has something to do with saving healthier and helping kids succeed in both school and life.

Eating together will help your family eat healthier. A Harvard study published in the Archives of Family Medicine indicated that eating family dinners together most or all days of the week was associated with eating more healthfully. The University of Minnesota conducted a survey that showed frequent family meals are linked to better nutritional intake, and a decreased risk for unhealthy weight control practices and substance abuse.

Families who eat together "every day" or "almost every day"* are said to generally consume higher amounts of nutrients such as calcium, fiber, iron, vitamins B6 and B12, C and E, and carotene, fats fat...compared to those who "never" or "only sometimes" eat meals together. Another study found that children who ate with their families consumed more vegetables, fruits, and fewer snack foods.

Do you want your kids to feel good about themselves and do well in school? Then make sure you share meals with them regularly. Research from the University of Michigan shows that "family dinners are the single most important predictor of children's academic achievement and psychological well-being."

The finding is significant and not hard to accomodate. It makes sense that shared meals serve as a time for emotional and behavioral nourishment, and set the stage for family interaction. Parents are such major influencers in their kids' lives and the dinner table is an obvious place for kids to get regular access to them.

Children who frequently eat meals with their families tend to do better in school. A Lou Harris-Reader's Digest national poll of high school seniors showed higher scholastic scores among students who frequently shared meals with their families, while a survey of high-achieving teens showed that those who regularly ate meals with their families tend to be happier with their prospects for the future.

Dr. Ed Doherty, a professor at the University of Minnesota's Department of Family Social Sciences, found that regular family meals were good for kids' grades, improved their physical well-being, and were a powerful deterrent to drug use and suicide. What's unfortunate is that Doherty also found that there has been a 33% decline over three decades in the number of families who say they have dinner together regularly.

And that's exactly why 'Lucky Me!' is rallying for family meals to stage a comeback and for families to get reacquainted. Most of the time, all your kid wants for dinner is YOU! So Best Time for Family Meals. Here are some tips to help you get started:

RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY MEALTIME. Get the family together and declare the benefits of eating together and make the commitment as a family.

BEGIN SLOWLY. Coordinating schedules can be tough, but it can be done. Start with one meal a week if that's all that's manageable for your family right now. Then increase your family meals from there. Start small, but stick to it.

KEEP IT SIMPLE. Sometimes families trying to implement shared mealtime tend to go a little overboard in the preparation. Some simple meal ideas can help ease the transition and make it a more enjoyable experience.

BE FLEXIBLE. If dinner's not workable, eat breakfast or lunch together, share a snack with your kid. Figure out what works best in your household.

DIVIDE AND CONQUER. If there's just no way you can all be together, remember that one parent is better than no parent. The parent is one less family member is not going to impact the togetherness of those members that are still at home.

MAKE IT FUN. Give everyone a chance to talk, share and listen. You can play "High and Low" wherein every one can share the best part of their day and the worst part of their day.

FOCUS ON FAMILY TIME. Make it a rule – no TV or phone calls. Everybody should stay at the table until everyone's finished.

Anytime you and your family sit around, share life, and eat together – whether it's take-out food or a home-cooked meal – create as a family ritual. Make this a regular activity for you and your family, and you will reap the benefits long after your meal ends.

Kaisang Pamilya Mahalaga

www.kaisangpamilyamahalaga.com

EVERYBODY'S BEST FRIEND DISHES ON HIS MEALTIME STAPLE

The Angeles household is a busy one during dinner with James' parents often working to make the occasion much more exciting.

EVEN POWER COUPLES NEED TO RECHARGE

Nino says, "We make it a point to eat meals together because that's our way of staying connected."

HOW A SUPERHERO IS MADE

Despite the hectic schedule, Mikaela always finds time to bond with the family over kitchen meals.

PILASTER CO cabinets by Dimensions

SCORE fabulous home items on sale like the Vietnam graphic photo frames

COLORFUL graphic display boxes are among the items on sale.

Home furniture, accessories on sale

ONGOING AT DIMENSIONS until Feb. 29 is a nationwide sale on home furniture and home accessories.

The sale offers up to 50 percent off on selected items like functional decor, ceramic pieces, and colorful home fashions.

Items on sale include the Spoods tape dispenser, CD cabinets, graphic circle print wooden tabletop storage boxes from Cebu, and red and black contrast pattern frames from Vietnam.

Catering to the young, urban style seeking set, the store's items are practical, tasteful, well-designed and reasonably priced.

Dimensions branches are located at Festival Supermall, Glorietta 4, Robinson's Place Ermita, Rockwell Power Plant Mall, SM City North Edsa, SM Megamall, Alabang Town Center, Trilliana and Mall of Asia.

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SCHEER & Sterling Coffee & Tea

Dazzling display of silverware

THE NEW SCHEER & STERLING SHOW room at The Fort recently launched a dazzling display of silver cutlery, tableware, and gift items.

Only the highest quality of silver are acceptable for the Scheer & Sterling collection, which is why they only use 925 sterling silver. Every cutlery, the work of the Hemitsuy workshop is disclosed to quality and the painstaking skill of the two craftsmen and his love of detail.

Scheer & Sterling silverware is used in the Imperial Chancellery in Berlin, palace of the King of Jordan, the four official guest residences at the Kremlin, and parts of the Shah of Dubai. It is also served by leading international restaurants and hotels.

The Astra Group Inc., its exclusive distributor for the finest cutlerias and international markets, has chosen to venture out and go directly to the consumer to better serve its clientele.

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The Business Advantage Group provides for all of the requirements of hotels, restaurants, embassies or corporate offices.

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Ernesto G. Velarde

Fil-Am is new William Hung

Star builder takes final bow

TALENT MANAGER/STAGE DIrector Angie Magbanua passed away in a hospital in Quezon City on Friday.

A diabetic, Magbanua (Vera mahrupting diabetic for the past year and a half, according to his friend, composer Dero Bolero. She was rushed to the hospital on Tuesday, where she was confined in the Intensive Care Unit.

Bolero said Magbanua had crammed "[a lot], even though she was in pain, she didn't want to bother other people."

She acted as juror in the 32nd Miss Manila Film Festival last month. She was jolly through out the screenings of the nine movies—never letting her fellow judges know, said Bolero.

He added that her former students in La Salle Greenhills helped see her through her illness. She was 60.

(Bayani San Diego Jr.)

A Web star is born

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

PINT WIZARD, MODERN-day Liberace, the new William Hung, Workaholic supervisor.

Blame it all on the sinking of the "disastrous 32nd" audition of 44-year-old Reynaldo Lopez, the botanist was about, with comments, of constantly losing and livid, pointed by him.

With his feathered hat, quilted blazer and silver cape, jacket, dubbed "Fiesta" by Gigante, charmed the three judges—Wade Allred, Randy Jackson and his idol Simon Cowell—with his original composition "We're Brothers Forever."

The usually vitriolic Cowell quipped, "I have a horrible feeling that it's going to be a hit record."

Jon Krishen channel 46 producers drove off 11 minutes to Liptol. Another claimed he was the "highlight" of the Indian tycoon, the reality contest's second episode for season 7.

Googling his name now leads to various sites—including the purported "official" web page of the "antagonist" from Reno, Nevada.

The homepage, which got hits from 20 countries on its first day, Thursday (Manila time), is hawking T-shirts in case funds for "Big Brothers, Big Sisters." The site itself is up for sale, with "80 percent going to charity."

A blogger predicted that Lopez would be given a spot somewhere in the all grand finale.

A new team for 'Pinoy Idol'

IT'S OFFICIAL.

Willie Revillame, a top GMA 7 exec, has confirmed that talent manager Wyngard Tricy, singer-songwriter Ogie Alcasid and singer-actress Regine Velasquez are the new judges of "Pinoy Idol."

Gutierrez explained that credibility was the "primary consideration" in selecting the panel, which was approved by franchise holder Freemantle Media.

Bernard Palanca is the new host.

The new team is present in the first round of auditions in Cagayan de Oro, which wraps up today.

Beyond Sex Diaz Jr.

Buboy's kids back at home

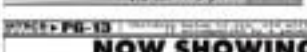
By Nestor S. Cruz

"THERE IS OPEN TO DISCUSSION, BUT Buboy stands the subject is much to point out," said Norma Arpilana, talent manager of estranged couple Lucy Montoya and Jun-Jun Cruz.

Montoya, Barcelona-based artist Arpilana to comment on the couple's status after news surfaced in the broke two months ago, bagging tabloid headlines.

Sandoval left the estranged home during the holidays with her three daughters and stayed at her mother's house. She has reportedly consulted Montoya, who is now divorced and on retirement with

(CONTINUED)



'Pinoy Idol' rejects

RUSHES SUNDAY

By the Inquirer Entertainment Staff

Goodbye, 'Whammy'

Love rigodon

Top of the tabloids

Rich, poor

Offlimits

Lovers him ... not

Understanding

Loose molars

Buboy's kids...

s, raise your hands

JENNYLYN MERCADO

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AT THE CINEMAS

GLORIETTA 1	1	2 I AM LEGEND	3 ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS	4 BRIDGE WAR			
GLORIETTA 4	1 ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS	2 NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS	3 SWEENEY TODD				
	4 D-WAR	5 I COULD NEVER BE YOUR WOMAN	6 THE HEARTBREAK KID	7 I AM LEGEND			
GREENBELT 1	1 SWEENEY TODD	2 ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS					
GREENBELT 2	1 NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS	2 ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS					
	3 SWEENEY TODD	4 THE HEARTBREAK KID	5 I AM LEGEND				
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS	2 I AM LEGEND					
	3 NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS	4 SWEENEY TODD	5 THE HEARTBREAK KID				
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 THE HEARTBREAK KID	2 SWEENEY TODD	3 NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS	4 I AM LEGEND			
MARKET! MARKET!	1 ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS	2 THE HEARTBREAK KID					
	3 SWEENEY TODD	4 I AM LEGEND	5 NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS				
TRINOMA	1 I COULD NEVER BE YOUR WOMAN	2 THE HEARTBREAK KID	3 NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS	4 SWEENEY TODD			
	5 ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS	6 D-WAR	7? I AM LEGEND				

AT THE MALLS

Ayala Malls

Glorietta — Photocontest Manila, January 26 to February 6

Greenbelt — Welcome 2008 Sale, January 11 to February 3

Alabang Town Center — Lotto Sale, January 19 & 20, Activity Center

Ayala Center Cebu — Sinulog Celebration, January 19 & 20, Activity Center

Market! Market! — Alvin & The Chipmunks Live at Market! Market!, January 19 & 20, 1:30pm, 3:30pm & 4:30pm, Activity Center

Onstage — Repertory Philippines presents "Tuesdays with Morrie", January 11 to 27, 2007, For inquiries, pls. call 887-4742 or visit www.repertory-philippines.com

Ayala Museum — Pioneers of Philippine Art, Paintings by Juan Luna, Fernando Amorsolo, and Fernando Zobel, For more info, pls. call 757-0147 to 50 loc. 18 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org

Tri Noma — Welcome 2008 Sale, January 11 to February 3

Concert scene heats up

By Pachale Cornejeion

AS MUSIC HAS GET GEDDY FROM THE forthcoming My Chemical Romance concert on Jan. 25 at the Fort Bonifacio Open Field in Taguig, negotiations are on for the arrival of two more major foreign artists who are expected to perform one after the other in the mid two months.

No.1s, the 25-year-old pop/R&B star from the United States, is performing on Feb. 20 at the Araneta Coliseum, to be followed by the Grammy-winning Lil pop-rock band, Maroon 5, on March 5 also at the big Dome.

Hot Kimberly, the five-voice-of-beyonce "R-sensation," No.1s (real name: Shalfee Climaco Smith) shot to fame when his debut album, "In My Own Words" (Def Jam Recordings) debuted at number one on the Billboard 200 and went platinum shortly.

He's a very prolific songwriter, aside from helping out Beyonce, No.1s has likewise written songs for Rihanna and for the new record-ings of Whitney Houston, Celine Dion, Britney Spears and Enrique Iglesias. The Black Eyed Peas' will.i.am has reportedly called him up to work on Michael Jackson's comeback album.

Maroon 5, broke into the scene in 2002, when its debut album, "Songs About Jane" (Sony BMG), were triple-platinum. The band has won two Grammy Awards.

Several more artists, including R&B superstar Usher and pop-rock sirens Julia Fordham and Kenny Loggins, are said to be on this year's concert calendar.

Madonna in Manila

But the biggest spectacle, if negotiations are successful, would be Madonna in Manila.

Pointedly identified with Warner Music, Madonna has reportedly signed an "innovative $120-million deal" with Live Nation, an events company which owns hundreds of venues in the US and Europe. Under the deal, Madonna would receive $50 million for performances, 50 percent of ticket sales, some $30 in 2007 and $20 for three new albums, and a $17.5 million advance.

What these staggering numbers signify is that the concert scene is heating up and has become much more viable for popular music acts.

This is supported by the fact that US album sales has been down by 20 percent since 2000.

In the Philippines, this is probably the best time for big foreign acts to come.

Dean Llamas, a local concert promoter, says that aside from the resurgent high value of the peso, the country has a population of music fans who "have become more demanding of the quality of concert acts they want to see."

Some 17 foreign acts performed here last year, most of them in major venues.

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SMART
THE POWER TO LEAD

ENTERTAINMENT

ELLE FANNING. Dakota's sister stars in "Phoebe in Wonderland," a dramedy that may be bought quickly in Sundance by distributors who worry that the continuing writers' strike may result in a shortage of completed films.

Risky games some folks play in Sundance

PARK CITY, UTAH—HOLLYWOOD MAY BE headed for a strike, but the writers' strike is also impacting the ongoing Sundance Film Festival here.

But perhaps this is one instance when the Writers Guild of America (WGA) strike yields a positive effect. Or at least one sector stands to benefit from the two-month strike—the sellers in the independent film festival, the largest in the US. Because of the disruption in film production, distributors are expected to buy [illegible] at the [illegible] ongoing [illegible]

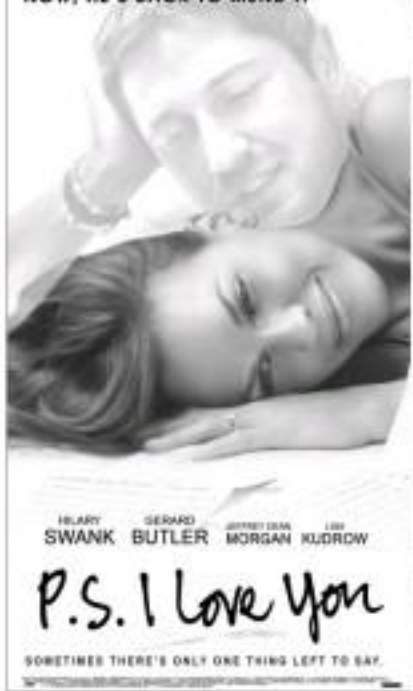
ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Barbara V. Vejarano

It's a sellers' market here as the studios' art house divisions try to outbid each other for films to fill out their release schedules, especially amid fears that the writers' walkout may continue for several months. The bidding wars, high-risk games that buyers here play, could be even more dramatic than those seen in the past few such Sundance festivals as "Little Miss Sunshine" and "Juno," which [illegible]

OPENS JANUARY 23

HE BROKE HER HEART WHEN HE DIED...
NOW, HE'S BACK TO MEND IT



HILARY SWANK GERARD BUTLER JEFFREY DEAN MORGAN LISA KUDROW

P.S. I Love You

SOMETIMES THERE'S ONLY ONE THING LEFT TO SAY.

POWER PLANT
CINEMAS

I AM LEGEND PG13	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS G	THE MASTERMIND R13
SWEENEY TODD R18	BIG MOMMA'S LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON PG13	NATIONAL TREASURE 2 G
	DRAGON BALL EVOLUTION PG13	

MMTA MOVIE GUIDE
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
NOW SHOWING
Movies/Showtimes/Prices Subject To Change Without Prior Notice

WILL I have a deleted scene like the hopers at Steelcase? In "Cloche," Jane Eschelbach's play, with Brad Pillion Pitchfork play's scene of her work in a blizzard of dinner pork, but he earns rave scoop by pretending to drink in fancy restaurants.

Risky...

Portugal 61

the Mist franchise," "Away From Her" and "Waitress."

The scenario for hot film properties goes like this: A film is screened, the bidding starts afterward (sometimes a buyer already makes a bid after watching only the movie's first 20 minutes) and it wouldn't last all night, even until the following morning. The situation is not unlike a maiden being courted by numerous suitors, all on a single night. In this case, the persistent suitors are paying-wooing directors who take turns entertaining hotel room, condo, house or a combination.

Buyer's pitch

Buyers usually have 20 minutes to convince the sellers and/or filmmakers why they should be picked to distribute the films. Next to the deciding factor of money, but sometimes that, plus the distributors' pitch on how they will market the films, are the make-or-break factors. After all, the key executive wants behind the films being sound, including the directors, are also present to observe sessions. So a buyer's pitch on how he promotes a movie speaks to the heart of a filmmaker who spent blood, sweat and tears on his finished product. The scenario probably also enticed to realize that the fate of his "motherpiece," of his "vision," hinge on this one sleep-deprived moment high up in the Ortigas towers.

Some of the tactics employed in these secretive bidding sessions can be instructive to an indie crowds or thriller, depending on you regard to these shenanigans in the larger scheme of things. Bribewith goes on the days when deals were made quickly and easily. A hot meeting with Quisbolon or Main Street sealed the deal.

These days, the intense dash to these negotiations can reach heated proportions. Buyers are afraid to take a break and go to the rest room while they are meeting with the sellers. These buyers worry—and rightly so—that other set of bidders might sneak in while they are away.

Resolutions have been known to stand outside (the) vendor or buyer—in the bitter cold—in case the competition is. Or they drive around the site of frenzied bidding to see who is coming and going. Some of these buyers have been spotted whispering into their cell phones (right) to persons (the customer, they dare to leave and go there in the middle of a bidding war).

Filmmakers' fantasy

The year, about 1,000 films are up for grabs. Of course, not all of these will stir buyers into a heated frenzy. It's the filmmakers' fantasy that these works will engage the likes of Harvey Weinstein to come pounding at their condo doors. Last year, films sold for an estimated $40 million.

This year, the buyers are expected to make higher bids on the "hot"

Araneta Cubao
EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS	I COULD NEVER BE YOUR WOMAN	SWEENEY TODD	NATIONAL TREASURE
DRAGON BALL	BIG MOMMA'S LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON	THE MASTERMIND	NATIONAL TREASURE	I AM LEGEND

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2 ALVIN and the CHIPMUNKS
2 NATIONAL TREASURE 2
4 THE HEARTBREAK KID
5 Reserved for VICTORY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
6 Reserved for VICTORY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
7 I AM LEGEND
8 indieline: SIKIL
9 I COULD NEVER BE YOUR WOMAN
DESPERADAS
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1 DRAGON WAR
2 SEE MOVIE
3 DESPERADAS
4 SAKAL SAKALI SAKLOLO
5 NATIONAL TREASURE 2
6 I AM LEGEND
7 I COULD NEVER BE YOUR WOMAN
1 THE HEARTBREAK KID
2 ALVIN and the CHIPMUNKS
3 SWEENEY TODD

METRO EAST

1 SWEENEY TODD
2 ALVIN and the CHIPMUNKS
3 DRAGON WAR
4 I COULD NEVER BE YOUR WOMAN
5 I AM LEGEND
6 THE HEARTBREAK KID
7 NATIONAL TREASURE 2
8 DESPERADAS

NOVALICHES

1 NATIONAL TREASURE 2
2 THE HEARTBREAK KID
3 SAKAL SAKALI SAKLOLO
4 DESPERADAS
5 DRAGON WAR
6 I AM LEGEND
7 ALVIN and the CHIPMUNKS
8 SWEENEY TODD

PIONEER

1 SWEENEY TODD
2 NATIONAL TREASURE 2/HEARTBREAK KID
3 ALVIN and the CHIPMUNKS
4 DRAGON WAR

STA. ROSA

1 NATIONAL TREASURE 2
2 SWEENEY TODD
3 I AM LEGEND
4 DESPERADAS
5 SAKAL SAKALI SAKLOLO

LIPA

1 NATIONAL TREASURE 2
2 I AM LEGEND
3 DESPERADAS
4 KATAS ng SAUDI
5 DEATH PROOF

DASMARINAS

1 DESPERADAS
2 NATIONAL TREASURE 2
3 I AM LEGEND
4 ALVIN and the CHIPMUNKS
5 SWEENEY TODD

IMUS

1 THE HEARTBREAK KID
2 I AM LEGEND
3 DESPERADAS
4 NATIONAL TREASURE 2
5 SWEENEY TODD
6 ALVIN and the CHIPMUNKS

ANGELES

1 SWEENEY TODD
2 DESPERADAS
3 ALVIN and the CHIPMUNKS
4 NATIONAL TREASURE 2

TARLAC

1 NATIONAL TREASURE 2
2 ENTENG KABISOTE 4
3 SAKAL SAKALI SAKLOLO

STARMILLS

1 SWEENEY TODD
2 DESPERADAS
3 SAKAL SAKALI SAKLOLO
4 ALVIN and the CHIPMUNKS
5 NATIONAL TREASURE 2
6 I AM LEGEND

BACOLOD

1 NATIONAL TREASURE 2
2 I AM LEGEND
3 SEE MOVIE / ELIZABETH: GOLDEN AGE
4 DESPERADAS
5 ANAK ng KUMANDER
6 SAKAL SAKALI SAKLOLO

ILOILO

1 NATIONAL TREASURE 2
2 ELIZABETH: THE GOLDEN AGE
3 DEATH PROOF
4 I AM LEGEND
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COMING SOON

METRO MANILA

CRAIG "The Wedness" Mc wacky bidding in Smokers! The coming-of-age comedy tells the story of a teenage girl, Jessie, who gets his gay-hamster-vain marijuana.

Risky . . .

From page B1

films because if the writers' strike persists, films will be ghastly or extreme shortage and will be filled late this year and next year. Reports pegged that the prices of some films being sold at Sundance will be higher. A movie that everyone is interested in could fetch as much as $15 million.

In the end, are these close-and-dagger maneuvers at dawn and in the freezing cold worth it? Some are more than worth the effects of a hapless to stay up all night and face the risk of frostbite on his toes and fingers. "Napoleon Dynamite," for example, was acquired for $3 million but went on to earn a whopping $49 million.

"Once," the simple but very charming modern-day musical about two musicians in Dublin who fall in love (the soundtrack is a must-hear), was sold for around $300,000 and guess how much it earned? Over $9 million. Probably Sundance's most successful film, coincidentally, is "Little Miss Sunshine," which had a price tag of about $1.6 and, last when checked up $100 million in sales around the globe.

Grossly disappointing

Other executives had a lot of explaining to do back in their home studio lots when the films they bought for $8 million or less barely managed to recoup $1 million or less. Still, many mention the movies to spare their buyers from embarrassment.

Another disappointment was "Snow Angels," bought for $4 and but it only sold $37,000 worth of tickets. That was not a typo: a $4 million investment yielded only $37 second at the box office.

So those buyers from their losses? Probably not. Each year, they get caught up in the frenzy to be the one to step up the rights to a hotly contested property and make unexpectedly high bids. The sad joke is that once a buyer does win a bidding war, he doesn't know whether to laugh or cry, whether he just made the best investment decision in his career.

As we write this, [illegible] are there in the snow, a buyer could be outside a rather's room, desperately trying to meet a hungry Asian blacksmith [illegible] paper cups to keep himself warm.

E-mail the columnist at [illegible] discussion and read its blog, "The Pleasure Reports," on www.inquirer.com/[illegible]